

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Canvassing change
A Conservative MP
makes a case for the anti-
politician.
Changing canvas
On holiday, House Man
turns into Tent Man and
becomes a new man.
Looking forward



Spectrum observes Sir
Bernard Lovell at 70, the
man who created Jodrell
Bank.
Slipping back
In its attempt to sell off
the state's oil interests,
the Government is
slipping behind in its
entire privatization
programme.

40,000 US targets in Russia

The United States has identified 40,000 possible targets for nuclear attacks in the Soviet Union, compared with 2,600 in 1960 and 25,000 in 1974, according to a study by the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

Soft approach to union reform

Union leaders have drawn up a composite motion for next month's TUC conference recommending reasoned discussions to persuade the Government to drop its planned labour law reforms.

Nott admission

A Falklands-type operation would not be possible in the 1990s, Sir John Nott, former Secretary of State for Defence, has acknowledged.

Falkland victim

Major Geoff Ward, aged 36, had a leg amputated below the knee after stepping on a mine left by Argentine troops in the Falklands. Sergeant-Major John Devine was cut and bruised.

Scientists meet

Reports on the Brighton conference of the British Association for the Advancement of Science appear on page 4.

Shares slump

Shares fell heavily yesterday, with the FT index down by 16.4 to 724, wiping out all the gains achieved in the previous 10 days.

UDR man shot

A part-time member of the Ulster Defence Regiment was shot dead by two gunmen on a motor cycle as he went to work in Strabane.

Manila witness

A Japanese freelance journalist has said he saw Philippines military guards shoot Benigno Aquino in the head.

Middlesex slip

Middlesex failed to hold on to their lead in the county championship when they were bowled out by Somerset on a sticky wicket at Lord's.

Cram's triumph

Steve Cram, Britain's 1500 metres world champion, won an 800 metres race in Lima 43.61sec in Oslo last night. The time was the fastest in the world this year.

Leader page 9
Letters: On Nato defence, from Rear-Admiral Dr Kurt Fischer; planning, from Professor G. E. Cherry.

Leading articles: Mr Tebbit and the TUC; Poland: Pakistan Features, pages 6-8.

Laws that should be abolished: Bernard Levin on the Liberal death wish; Hong Kong's new territory; Spectrum: getting to the bottom of the showpiece mine fiasco, Wednesday page; Manlow mania.

Obituary, page 10
Mr William Tamblin, Dr F. H. Krock.

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Treasury seeking more cuts to stop big tax rises

By Staff Reporters

The Cabinet has been warned by the Treasury that unless it cuts its spending, particularly on defence, there will have to be large increases in personal taxation near the end of the decade.

The warning is contained in a Treasury paper, prepared under conditions of extreme confidentiality, on the financing of public spending in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

It is the first post-election assessment of the options open to the Government during its term of office and is expected to be discussed by the Cabinet when ministers return to Whitehall next month.

The exercise has involved a thorough updating of earlier work which provided the basis for last year's controversial "think-tank" study on ways of cutting spending. It ranges much wider than the study of ways to finance the welfare state which the Prime Minister has already disclosed.

There is likely to be particular emphasis on the growing size of the defence budget if Britain tries to maintain its commitment to increase defence spending by 3 per cent a year beyond 1985-86, when present policy pledges run out.

Cutting the defence budget, which has increased by 20 per cent since 1979, is thought to be essential if other spending departments are to be kept in check over the next decade.

One small victory, already gained in Treasury discussions

with the Ministry of Defence, is that the Treasury's Cabinet paper makes no allowance for higher levels of inflation in defence costs than the general increase in prices over the next decade.

In the past the Defence Ministry has been able to claim that because its costs grew faster than other spending departments it should get more money.

Fears about leaks are so intense that the spending departments have not been allowed to play a full part in the latest exercise, which has been carried out within the Treasury. The relevant ministries have been restricted to a limited role providing basic information about their plans.

But a determination not to repeat the fiasco of last year's "think tank" report, which generated such controversy when sprung on Cabinet that it had to be withdrawn, means that a limited exercise in guided public debate is likely.

One idea being discussed is that influential bodies such as the National Institute for Economic Research, the Institute of Economic Affairs and the Policy Studies Institute should take part in discussions on the long-term outlook for public spending.

However, present plans do not involve giving them access to detailed estimates of how spending will grow over the years ahead.

At the heart of the Govern-



The minstrel with a Palace all his own

By Kenneth Coaling

Andrew Lloyd Webber, millionaire composer of the hit musicals *Cats*, *Evita* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*, yesterday achieved his life's ambition of owning a West End theatre, when he announced the acquisition from Sir Emile Littler of the Palace Theatre in London.

Mr Lloyd Webber, pictured outside the Palace yesterday, paid £1.3m for it. Last year he made unsuccessful bids for the Aldwych Theatre and later the Old Vic, which was bought by Mr Ed Mirvish, a Canadian businessman, who outbid him by £50,000.

The 1400-seat Palace, designed in 1891 for the Odeon Cinema, has been the home of the Lloyd Webber musical *Song and Dance*, since April last year. *Jesus Christ Superstar* was in occupation for eight years and two weeks, depositing the *Sound of Music* as the longest running musical in British theatre history.

Sir Emile Littler, who was present at the Palace for yesterday's press conference, handed over control and management of the building after running it with great success for the last 37 years. He put on shows like *Song of Norway* and *Little Tich*, *Flower Drum Song* and *Finian's Rainbow*.

Pakistan mobs spread chaos to more towns

From Michael Hamlyn, Karachi

A mob of demonstrators at Qambar, near Larkana, the home town of former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, last night swarmed through the streets of the town, burning and looting government offices, attacking a local jail house and freeing 47 prisoners.

Estimated by local journalists as over 10,000 strong, the mob burnt a number of banks, an officers' mess, a press club, and a telephone exchange. Elsewhere in Sind several thousand demonstrators took to the streets again and the death toll in the nine-day campaign of civil disobedience rose still higher.

President Zia Ul-Haq braved the Sind disturbances to make his first visit to Karachi since he announced his new constitutional procedures on August 12.

Police opened fire on a rampaging mob in Kandikot near Jacobabad, about 330 miles north of here, close to the Baluchistan border. One person died according to official sources. According to the opposition, 60 to 70 people were injured in the firing.

The protesters, calling for an end to the martial law regime of General Zia, set fire to the railway station, the city court building, the local land revenue office, and the fire brigade headquarters itself. Four local banks were ransacked and three of them set ablaze.

The official death toll throughout the country rose to 18, but it is failing to keep up

with all the deaths which are officially admitted. Sind government spokesman have said that seven people died in Monday's outbreaks in Khairpur and Ranipur, but the officials total includes only three from those incidents.

According to Mr Hassan Feroz, the convenor of the MRD (the eighty party Movement for the Restoration of Democracy) in Karachi, more



than 60 people have died since the demonstrations first began last Sunday, the thirtieth anniversary of Pakistan's independence.

He also said that between 14,000 and 15,000 people have been detained during the campaign which went ahead despite President Zia's promise to hold elections before March 23, 1985. The Government say that only just over 700 arrests have been made.

But despite the wish of the organizers to broaden the

Continued on back page, col 8

Dublin oil investors run into problems

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Amateur investors on the Dublin Stock Exchange who have indulged in too much speculation in oil could be heading for trouble.

In the past month small investors have rushed into deals on the stock market in shares in the three companies, that have holdings in oil exploration rights in the Celtic Sea.

Speculation started in the wake of reports that oil had been found in commercial quantities by a consortium led by Gulf Oil of the United States and in which Atlantic Resources, an Irish company, has a third stake.

Shares in Atlantic Resources rose from a low of 30p in March to 60p on the London Stock Exchange three weeks ago - prices in Dublin are quoted at higher rates because of the Irish pound's weakness against sterling - before settling for a few days at around 50p.

However, in the past two days shares have fallen to 35p, wiping about £10m from the paper value of the company.

Exactly who has been buying and selling shares on the Dublin

and London stock markets in Atlantic Resources-and to a lesser extent Aram Energy and Bula Resources, the other two Irish oil exploration companies that have seen short term price rises-reveals a matter of city confidentiality.

But there is clear evidence that small investors in the Irish Republic and those whom the stock exchanges describe as "punters" have been buying shares.

Gulf is carrying out reevaluation tests to confirm if previously reported flow rates of 6,000 barrels of oil a day from one well and combined rates of 10,000 barrels a day from the field are feasible.

The head of Atlantic Resources is Dr Tony O'Reilly, who is chairman of the American-based Ireland Fund. He holds 1.85 million of the 14 million Atlantic Resources shares.

The other big shareholder in Atlantic Resources with 1.1 million shares is Mr Suliman Olaya, a Saudi Arabian businessman.

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Thousands cheer death sentences

Peking (AFP, AP) - Thirty criminals were sentenced to death at a mass rally attended by thousands of cheering spectators yesterday and later executed.

The executions were part of a law-and-order campaign launched about 10 days ago. It was the largest group to be executed in Peking for several years.

A notice posted at the Peking intermediate court, which imposed the death sentences, said that the 30 executed criminals included 19 accused of murder, 10 rapists and one car thief. One woman was among those executed. None was older than 35.

The sentences were announced yesterday during a meeting of some 10,000 people at the Peking workers' gymnasium. Several who attended said that the condemned were afterwards taken to an execution ground near the capital. People condemned to death in China usually are executed with a single pistol shot to the back of the head, although occasionally firing squads are used.

Fears in West Germany Why 1984 is on the cards

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

A car approaches the passport control booth on the frontier. The passenger hands over a plastic identity card, which is fed into a computer terminal connected to a central police data bank. Within seconds, the frontier post closes, a siren starts wailing and a steel cage slams down over the car.

With only five months to go until 1984, this Orwellian nightmare, outlined half in jest to *Der Spiegel* four years ago by the then Minister of the Interior, is fast becoming a reality.

For West Germany is about to issue new computer-readable identity cards which police claim will drastically cut crime, but which a growing number of alarmed citizens see as the first step towards Big Brother's computerized police state.

Shaped like cheque cards and bearing the holder's photograph, date and place of birth, nationality, signature and a computer serial code, the little cards look harmless enough.

And indeed Herr Friedrich Zimmermann, the present right-wing Minister of the Interior, who enthusiastically supports their introduction, insists in a ministry pamphlet that they are

simply a modern, forgery-proof version of the grey identity booklets that all Germans already carry.

But many people, worried by the growing amount of personal information stored by computers, see dangerous implications.

A tide of protest, fuelled by *Der Spiegel*, the Greens and other left-wing groups, has begun to roll across the country.

They call the cards more dangerous than the proposed census, defeated earlier this year by data privacy champions who won an injunction from the constitutional court, and they say the technology of mass control that would accompany their introduction would make West Germany the first society, West or East, under total computer surveillance.

Critics say the installations of thousands of fixed and mobile terminals connected to a police and intelligence services data bank would greatly increase the temptation of the police both to store more information on more people and to ask people to produce their cards more frequently.

The police hope the use the instant print-outs to catch the

remaining 30 or so terrorists could easily include the names of people attending trials of terrorists, transit travellers to Berlin (who already have their passports photographed on arrival in the city), visitors to Parliament, holders of cars, hotel guests, those registering on moving house, suspects in drug cases, political activists and anyone whose name has been brought to police attention.

Opponents say these records could easily include the names of people attending trials of terrorists, transit travellers to Berlin (who already have their passports photographed on arrival in the city), visitors to Parliament, holders of cars, hotel guests, those registering on moving house, suspects in drug cases, political activists and anyone whose name has been brought to police attention.

Tough rules have recently been introduced to stop the abuse of computer data, and those not carrying identity cards when stopped are given 12 hours to produce them. But people fear it will be very hard to stop abuses quietly slipping into the new system.

French in dark, page 5

French in dark, page 5

French in dark, page 5

Libyans in drive south, says Chad

Ndjamena (Reuters) - The Chadian Government claimed yesterday that Libyan armoured columns were moving south in two directions from the northern rebel base of Faya-Largeau.

Mr Mahamat Soumaila, the Information Minister, said some 100 Soviet-built M62 and M72 tanks had been transported to a new base 50 miles south of Faya-Largeau. A number of Libyan armoured regiments had been spotted between Faya-Largeau some 560 miles north of Ndjamena, and the northeastern town of Fada.

Mr Soumaila did not give a source for the information.

He said the Soviet-built tanks had been moved to a new advance base and were poised for an attack on Salal. This is the most forward Government position at the western end of a defence line set up after August 10 when Libyan-backed rebels took Faya-Largeau.

Some of the estimated 1,200 French troops in Chad are based in Salal. They are officially described as instructors but are allowed to defend themselves if attacked.

French in dark, page 5

French in dark, page 5

Falklands-type operation would be impossible in 1990s, Nott admits

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

Sir John Nott, former Secretary of State for Defence, acknowledged yesterday that under his policies it would become impossible in the 1990s for Britain to carry out an operation similar to last year's recapture of the Falkland Islands.

But, the Ministry of Defence said that spending on the Royal Navy, excluding the cost of the Falkland Islands and the Polaris and Trident programmes, was 15 per cent higher in real terms than when the Government took office in 1979.

Both statements were made in response to criticisms made on Monday by Captain John Moore in the new edition of *Jane's Fighting Ships*. Captain Moore referred to the "whole-sale emasculation" of the Royal Navy and said that it lacked "the necessary balance for general maritime operations."

The main thrust of Captain Moore's criticisms were aimed at Sir John's defence policy review of June 1981.

In an interview on BBC radio, Sir John said that in his defence White Paper of 1981 he merely brought the defence budget back in line with Government spending targets. "There were no financial cuts imposed in the defence review. The importance of the review

was to look ahead 10-15 years, knowing that the reality of our position was that we could not afford to keep the balanced naval power that everybody would like to see.

"The truth of the matter was that the navy was overprogrammed and of course I had to cut back the forward plans because the plans were far too ambitious. All the services have to learn to live within the budget they are allocated."

Sir John added: "We must decide our priorities and if the Royal Navy will not decide those priorities for itself then in the end they will have to be imposed upon the Royal Navy."

He said that Britain could not meet its Nato commitments, which were overwhelmingly our defence against an extremely sophisticated Soviet fleet, and at the same time also carry on the general maritime responsibilities.

Mr Michael Heseltine, Sir John's successor as Secretary of State for Defence, said that if he had carried out the review he would probably have taken very similar decisions.

In yesterday's statement, the Ministry of Defence said that this year £700m more in real terms would be spent on the navy. There were 38 warships

on order and a wide range of improved weapons and equipment were being developed.

It was incorrect to say that the number of hunter-killer submarines was reducing. By the end of the 1980s the ministry expected the number of those submarines to be more than half as many again as in 1979.

The ministry denied Captain Moore's claim that the design of the planned Type 2400 diesel submarine lagged behind those of other European builders.

Over Captain Moore's argument that Britain would be unable to keep more than two major ports open in the face of sustained mine-laying, the ministry said that the Navy's mine countermeasure capability was to be improved.

● The Royal Navy has decided that it has no use at present for a system which would enable aircraft to be launched, or plucked out of the air, by a hook.

The Skyhook which is still in the very early design stage, was devised by British Aerospace to extend the number of ships which could operate vertical-and-short-take-off-and-landing aircraft such as the Harrier. The ministry has concluded that the system's height could reduce speed and seaworthiness.

Raleigh to cut 600 more jobs

T. I. Raleigh, the Nottingham cycle company, is to make 600 workers redundant. It was announced yesterday. Two hundred and fifty staff and hourly paid production workers will lose their jobs during the next two months. A further 350 jobs will be lost by the middle of next year, through natural wastage.

The workforce has been halved in the past three years but the company said that it did not envisage any more reductions after the latest cuts.

Inquiry into ambulance crash

Cambridgeshire ambulance service started an investigation yesterday into why a Peugeot ambulance equipped with a life support system overturned on the M11 at Girton near Cambridge on Monday night, injuring its driver, nurse and doctor.

The patient, Mr Martyn Bedford, from March, who was being transferred from Peterborough Hospital to the head injuries department at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, was in a critical condition last night.

RSPCA to hunt marauding mink

Residents of a North Yorkshire town have called in the RSPCA to hunt down mink, after scores of animals savaged two dozen ducks and 10 adult birds swimming in a stream.

Residents of Bedale, who fear that the mink may attack children who play in the stream, have petitioned the local council. The Ministry of Agriculture has now agreed to supply traps and RSPCA officials will have the captured mink humanely destroyed.

Inquiry urged after suicides

An all-party group of six MPs, meeting yesterday at the Glasgow headquarters of the Scottish Council for Civil Liberties, decided to ask the Government for a public inquiry into young offender institutions in Scotland.

Three people in institutions have killed themselves in ten months, the latest eight days ago. Mr David Gordon, the council's general secretary, said: "The issue will not be resolved by making scapegoats of a few staff at low level."

Channel 4 drops alternative news

Channel 4 has not renewed the contract for the weekly alternative news programme, *The Friday Alternative*, which ends in October. The programme, made by Diverse Productions, has attracted few viewers. It is understood that it is likely to be replaced by another alternative media production.

Murder charge

James Mason, aged 31, and his wife Valerie Ann, aged 22, were jointly charged yesterday with murdering David Moore, aged 29, an insurance salesman, from Manchester, in Hulme, South Lakeland, on August 12. The couple, from Ashton-in-Makerfield, Greater Manchester, were remanded in custody.

Bosquet wed

Mr Reginald Bosquet, aged 55, the former ITN newsreader, married for the third time yesterday at Chelsea Register Office. His bride was Mrs Joan Platt.

Harrods to promote Hongkong goods

By John Lawless

A 10-year campaign to rid Hongkong products of their old "cheap and nasty" image reaches a climax next March when they will dominate the shelves of Harrods for a month.

Officials of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council who clinched the deal, having made their first approach to the Knightsbridge department store in 1973, regard the event as the "ultimate accolade."

The council is to spend £400,000 promoting the event. Harrods, which has already started sending buying teams to Hongkong, will match that amount.

With the Hongkong Government, its tourist authority and Cathay Pacific airline also contributing, the promotional budget will be worth almost a quarter of the £4.5m worth of goods to be flown in.

The man who first suggested the idea, the council's executive director, Mr Len Dunning, said yesterday: "Harrods has some of the most discerning and quality-conscious customers in the world."

"To have Hongkong merchandise as the theme throughout the store for a full month is the best possible acknowledgement that our products can now stand up to international

comparison at the highest level."

Mr Dunning said: "It will now be possible for the discriminating British consumer and the average housewife to afford decent, fashionable goods."

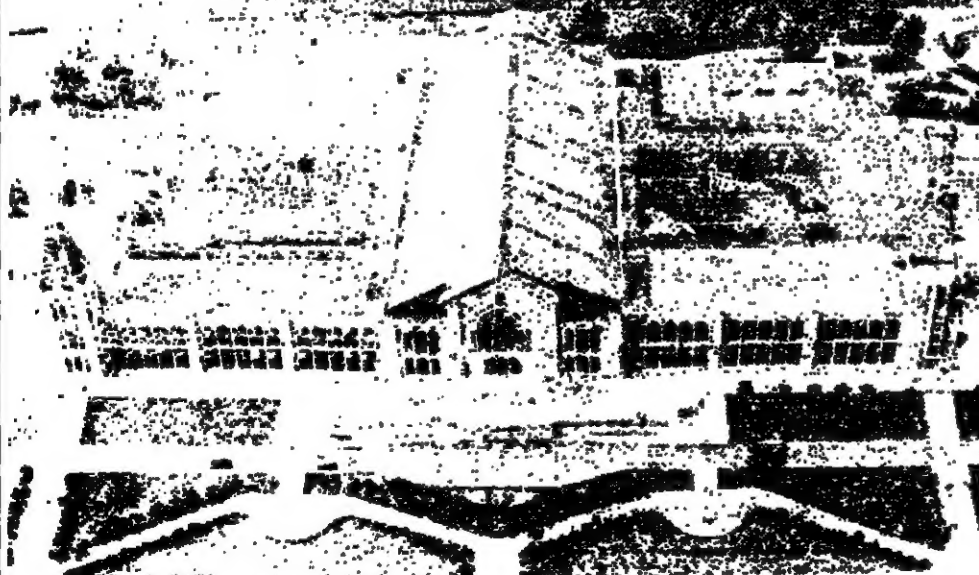
"Equally, the profits Hongkong earns will enable us to buy even more sophisticated high technology products from the UK which, together with consumer goods, will be costing over £700m in 1983."

Mr David de Borman, who took over as senior British representative of the trade council this month, said: "It will finally lay to rest the myth that Hongkong produces plastic things which go on Christmas trees."

Goods on display will fall into about 30 categories, including audio equipment and video games, luggage, sporting goods, picnic and kitchenware, toys and furniture.

£1m fire charge

A boy aged 15 charged with starting a fire which caused more than £1m damage to a warehouse in Skimpot Lane, Luton, this month appeared before Luton Juvenile Court yesterday. The case was adjourned until September 20.



Leisure palace: A model of a rebuilding plan for Alexandra Palace, north London, approved by the Department of the Environment yesterday.

The hilltop landmark was destroyed by fire three years ago. Now Haringey Borough Council is to spend £24m on a scheme including an hotel, concert

hall, exhibition area, planetarium and drama school. In the surrounding park will be riding stables, a zoo and football pitches.

Work is due to start next April and the council hopes to finish by 1989.

The council says the cost of the development, the subject of a public inquiry last year, will be met by

insurance and a grant made by the Greater London Council when the palace was transferred to Haringey's ownership.

But last night a local residents' group, the Muswell Hill Association, said the council had its sums wrong and ratepayers could be left with a big bill. (Photograph: John Voss)

Callaghan calls for early cut in interest rates

Mr James Callaghan yesterday advocated an early cut in interest rates and the stabilisation of exchange rates between Europe, the United States and Japan, to reduce worldwide unemployment levels.

"It would need a substantial intervention fund of perhaps £200bn to £300bn, but it would be worth while if we are to escape from the present levels of unemployment and provide jobs for our people," the former Labour prime minister said.

Mr Callaghan leaves today for Vail, Colorado, to attend a forum, presided over by Mr Gerald Ford, the former US president, which will deal with international trade and changing the world economy.

Kinnock calls for 'realistic' family policy

By Pat Healy, Social Services Correspondent

Family policy must adapt to the fact that only 5 per cent of British families are dependent on a sole male wage, Mr Neil Kinnock, the leading contender for the Labour leadership, says today.

He calls for a framework to meet changing reality instead of "attending merely to the traditional image of the family with a male breadwinner, a dependent housewife and two children."

Writing in *Poverty*, Journal of the Child Poverty Action Group, Mr Kinnock accuses the Government of a sentimental attachment to ideas of the family while introducing social and economic policies which have imposed misery on countless homes.

Poverty for 11 million people means stress, cold and inadequate diets, while unemployment for 4.5 million means pressure, poverty and waste. Both, Mr Kinnock writes, break up families and communities.

The role of parents in bringing children is vital and irreplaceable, but must be understood as an obligation to the whole community. Extra financial responsibilities for dependent children must be met through general taxation, rather than through parents' own contributions or the "family wage" which is the basis of much collective bargaining, Mr Kinnock says.

Much higher child benefits are essential, he says, and low pay should be tackled by a union-negotiated national minimum wage allowing further bargaining for better terms and conditions of work.

Mr Kinnock also calls for an "enormous improvement" in social provision for child care, particularly by proper nursery provision.

Family policy should also be built on the principle of extending real freedom and choice for families, he writes.

"State support for the family should seek to place particular obligations upon neither the mother nor the father but should recognize the family unit as a whole, so leaving the members of the family to take their own decisions as to how family

work is divided - unencumbered by the particular assumptions of the wages, taxes and benefits system."

Mr Kinnock's contribution is one of several to discuss family policy in the context of current Government plans and the leads from his Family Policy Group before the general election.

Captain Terry Dremmond of the Church Army writes that the present debate on family policy brings a particular challenge to Christians. The Church would work to develop a new morality based on the redistribution of wealth rather than "become an agent that offers support to reactionary ideas."

BA court challenge defended

By Edward Townsend

Lord King, chairman of British Airways, yesterday defended his High Court challenge to the Government's "open skies" aviation policy. Any airline publicly or privately owned, was free to seek protection under the law, he said.

British Airways, which Lord King says will be ready for full privatization by September next year, is attempting to prevent British Midland, its independent rival, from operating a service between Heathrow and Belfast, a route on which the state airline recently introduced its new, fuel efficient Boeing 757 aircraft.

The Civil Aviation Authority's decision to grant a licence to British Midland for flights to Belfast is the cause of the present dispute, but it is also being used by British Airways to bring pressure on the Government to speed the sale of its shares to the private sector.

Close colleagues of Lord King say that he has been upset by suggestions that he is using BA's unique, nationalized position to block competition on domestic air routes.

Yesterday, it was disclosed that British Airways challenge to the CAA's decision would be heard in private by a judge sitting in chambers. The case is likely to be dealt with tomorrow, followed by a full hearing in October.

● Britain's state-owned airports handled a record five million passengers last month, confirming that "vigorous growth" was back after three years of recession, according to the British Airports Authority.

Plain man's guide to fringe politics

By John Withers

The following is a brief guide to the main left-wing groups. Socialist League. Membership: 650. Paper: *Socialist Action*. Circulation: About 6,000. Formed from International Marxist Group last year. British section of 4th International. Student backing and strong in university towns. At one time set itself up to unite Trotskyist left but met little success.

Practices "entryism" in industry (as was seen from dismissal of 13 members at British Leyland's Cowley plant) but with limited success because of middle-class background of most members. Most members now thought to have joined Labour Party and active in constituencies.

Socialist Organisers Alliance. Membership: About 750. Paper: *Socialist Organiser*. Formed from merger between Workers' Socialist League and International Communist League. Trotskyist. More entrenched in industry and trade unions than Socialist League and has unofficial support from some MPs. Considered somewhere between Socialist League and Militant.

Workers' Revolutionary Party. Membership: 400 to 1,000. Paper: *Newsline*. Daily print run of about 5,000 but probably sells fewer. Emerged from

Socialist Labour League. Expelled from Labour Party in 1960s. Considered too extremist by other leftist groups and lives in "splendid isolation". Achieved publicity through backing from Vanessa and Corin Rodgrave and influence in actors' union Equity.

Socialist Workers' Party. Membership: About 4,000 but half that number active. Newspaper: *Socialist Worker*. Circulation: 15,000 weekly (at one stage 40,000). Grew out of International Socialist group. Changed name in 1977 after steady rise in membership through 1960s and 1970s. Very active in high-profile actions such as Right to Work and long-running industrial disputes. Shuns Labour Party and believes it a hindrance to socialism. Believes that when economic upturn arrives will be able to mobilize rank and file from influential positions. Strong in such unions as Nalco and the National Union of Teachers, according to the Economic League.

Militant. Between 3,000 and 6,000 supporters. Newspaper: *Militant Weekly*. Circulation claimed: 35,000 to 40,000. Plans to go daily within two years.

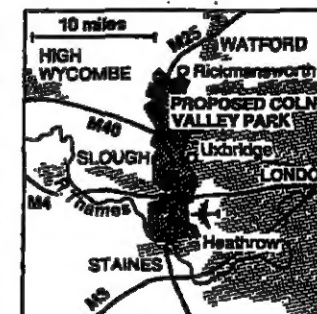
Councils seek views on regional park

A consortium of local authorities, including the Greater London Council, is asking for public comment on a plan to designate 40 square miles on London's western edge as a regional park (David Walker writes).

The park, the length of the Colne Brook, from Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, south to Runnymede, would link green areas, waterways and reservoirs. It is intended by council planners to reinforce green belt policies forbidding development within it.

Mr Ilyd Harrington, GLC deputy leader and chairman of the standing conference of councils for the Colne Valley Park, issued a statement yesterday inviting farmers, landowners, conservationists and recreational organizations to comment.

The plan, costing "several millions" spread over the coming decade, envisages new



footpaths, tree-planting and the landscaping of derelict land and former mineral workings.

The GLC proposes to landscape quarries at Denham, Buckinghamshire, and Berkshire and hopes to develop the extensive set of reservoirs near Slough for recreation.

The consortium expects to complete by the summer of 1993. Letters, page 9

Tower plea to save Earl's armour for the nation

By Kenneth Gossling

The Tower of London is making a determined effort to save for the nation a suit of Flemish armour sold to an American collector earlier this year for more than £300,000 at the Hever Castle sale.

It launched an appeal yesterday after the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art withheld the armour's export licence for six months.

Mr Ian Eaves, the Tower's keeper of armour, described the early seventeenth-century armour as "the finest of that date surviving in this country and the only decorated French armour of that date."

It was, he added, "a beautiful thing" and the Tower, which had bid unsuccessfully for it, was very keen to save it for the nation.

The Tower will have to raise £367,950 for the suit, identified as having been worn by Henry Wholesley, Third Earl of Southampton.

Best known as Shakespeare's patron, the earl pursued a military career

TUC cracks down on internal politicking

By Paul Routledge

The Trades Union Congress has acted to break up the increasingly formal battle between the left and moderates to influence the outcome of elections to the TUC General Council.

It has written to more than 100 affiliated unions telling them that "institutionalized canvassing" by organized groups is "incompatible with good trade union practice and very disruptive to the unity of the TUC."

The circular condemns the holding of private meetings and the circulation of documents containing lists of recommended candidates for election to the General Council which have been a growing feature of politicking within the labour movement over the past few years.

The practice came out into the open in the run-up to the 1981 congress, when the main moderate group mailed its "slate" to a number of unions thought to be uncommitted and asked for their support.

In the subsequent outcry, the St. Ermin's Group (so named after the Westminster hotel where its members meet) was accused of flouting congress rules that forbid canvassing.

TUC rules state: "Canvassing or bartering of votes for any position or purpose shall be strictly forbidden." Candidates for election to the General Council face a three-year ban on holding office if found guilty of such practices.

It has been an open secret, however, that both left and right seek to gain a majority on the General Council by informal plotting aimed at getting their candidates elected. In the days before Congress starts on September 5, some very competitive lunching is being reported from the political battle front.

The TUC sent out its circular when inviting unions to nominate for the 17 seats on the enlarged, 51-member General Council that are still open to election.

From next month, 34 of the seats will be taken up automatically by unions with more than 100,000 members, six seats for women will be elected by all the unions participating in a secret ballot and 11 seats will be elected by 85 unions that do not qualify for automatic representation.

The confidential circular says: "At the 1981 congress, the issue arose of the canvassing of votes for election to the General Council. In this connection the General Council wish to make it clear to all affiliated unions that it is incompatible with good trade union practice for 'institutionalized canvassing' by organized groups within the TUC to take place."

"This includes the holding of private meetings, and the circulation of documents containing lists of recommended candidates for election to the General Council. Such developments can only be very disruptive to the unity of the TUC. The General Council will be keeping this under review."

The TUC is having some difficulty enforcing its authority, however. Four right-wing "hit lists" designed to rid the General Council of leading left-wingers were said to be circulating at the end of last year, although documentary evidence proved impossible to come by.

The General Council elections take place on September 6, and it is certain that the intense lobbying of recent weeks will determine the outcome, although both sides are being obliged to adopt a lower profile in their activities.

Hindley wins injunction

Myra Hindley, jailed for life in 1966 for her part in the moors murders, was granted a temporary injunction in the High Court yesterday banning *The Sun* from publishing further extracts from a statement she made in 1978 in support of an application for parole.

The ban runs until Friday. Lawyers for *The Sun*, which has published the feature on Hindley for two days this week, will appeal against it today.

Hindley, aged 41, was not in court yesterday. She told Mr Justice Mervyn Davies in an affidavit that she feared publication of more extracts from the 22,000-words statement to the Parole Board would prejudice her chance of parole in 1985.

News Group Newspapers, publishers of *The Sun*, opposed yesterday's ban.

Nissan modifies scheme for UK car factory

By Our Industrial Correspondent

A scaled-down version of the plan by Nissan to build a £500m car-manufacturing plant in Britain is under consideration, Mr Takashi Ishihara, the company's president, disclosed in Tokyo yesterday.

The original proposal to make 200,000 cars a year in Britain was considered "optimal", he said at a press conference called to launch new models. And he admitted that once given the go-ahead, the project would have to be discussed fully with Japanese trade union leaders.

Mr Ishihara's remarks are likely to be interpreted in Whitehall as an attempt by the president, a firm advocate of the British development to accommodate opposition on the Nissan board and to calm union fears that such a massive project would cripple domestic job prospects.

The British Government has told Nissan that it would not welcome the project unless the cars had at least 60 per cent local content, while the Japanese unions may threaten sanctions if they believe that too much work is being exported.

The unions have presented proposals to Nissan, and Mr Ishihara said that as the unions were considered a part of the corporate organization the company had no choice but to take their views into account. He reiterated the board's promise that a decision on the

Ice-cream fines

Six ice-cream sellers were fined a total of £1,575 yesterday by magistrates in Torbay, Devon for ignoring a new by-law banning them from operating on Torquay seafront.

project would be taken before the end of this year but added that the most critical issue was how long the new plant would take to turn in a profit. A "careful study" of profitability was now being undertaken. Once a positive decision was made no time would be lost in starting construction.

The plan, designed to create 5,000 direct jobs, has been bedevilled by the recession and its effect on the European new car market and a decision has been delayed several times by the Nissan directors. British government ministers who have made strenuous efforts to attract Nissan, remain convinced that the factory will be built, even in a modified form, and that timing is the crucial factor.

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Brighton

Altruism in the bat family

By Pearce Wright

Even bats can be altruistic, according to Dr P. Harvey, lecturer in biology at Sussex University's School of Biological Sciences.

He was supporting sociobiology, the theory that genetic survival can be explained in terms of animal behaviour, and that behaviour behind human evolution is no different from that of other animals.

He described how vampire bats which draw blood from their victims at night regurgitate some of their diet in the day for the one in seven bats which have failed to get a satisfactory meal and are in imminent danger of starving.

Dr Harvey said such cases of altruism pose problems for the evolutionary biologist. If natural selection is a potent evolutionary force, why should animals help others at some cost to themselves?

He said a picture was emerging which he described as examples of either nepotism or reciprocity.

He said: "Nepotism of kin selection involves helping others who are related to you. Relatives share copies of your own genes, identical by descent from a common ancestor. By helping relatives, animals make the survival and propagation of copies of their own genetic material."

"Ground squirrels give alarm calls when they see predators, thus warning others of the danger but possibly attracting the predator's attention."

Farmland 'not disappearing'

The common view that British farmland is disappearing fast under a web of urban development is completely wrong, Professor Robin Best of the University of London told the agriculture section.

The loss of farmland to roads and houses reaches a peak in the 1930s when 25,000 hectares disappeared every year. The rate today is no more than 8,000 hectares a year, according to Mr Best, who is professor of land use at Wye College.

TUC should push for legal limit on working hours, Jenkins says

By Clive Cookson, Technology Correspondent

The Trades Union Congress should press for legislation to limit the number of hours that any one can work in a lifetime, Mr Clive Jenkins, general secretary of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, told the association.

Mr Jenkins said that he would propose such a policy to the TUC in Blackpool next month because unemployment on the present scale required the force of law to reduce working hours and share out available work.

The regulations would place a weekly ceiling on overtime, and encourage people to take longer holidays, sabbaticals and early retirement. But the details remained to be worked out.

Mr Jenkins was addressing the association's section whose theme this year is "New technology and the future of work".

"The next five years are going to be a period of deep trauma for trade unions", Mr Jenkins predicted. "The general election has changed the social landscape in a quite irrevocable way," he said.

'Next five years... a period of deep trauma for unions'

He is urging his TUC colleagues to review their attitudes to work and unemployment. The labour movement has "profoundly misread" the general reaction to unemployment, he said.

Mr Jenkins who had been talking to many unemployed men and women while researching a future book found that most people accepted the loss of their jobs with quiet sorrow and without anger. Their shocked reaction was similar to bereavement on the death of a family member, he said.

The labour movement was wrong to imagine that insecurity is a common result of unemployment, Mr Jenkins added. The financial compensations which most people received through redundancy payments and company and state benefits, made them feel reasonably secure.

Mr Ian Miles, of the science policy research unit at Sussex

university, presented to the meeting the results of a survey comparing the lives of more than 300 unemployed and 100 employed men in Brighton.

The survey found that the unemployed did not spend their

time slumped in front of a television, nor that they slept more than people with a job.

The unemployed men watched television on average for three hours a day, compared to two hours for employed men.

Their outdoor leisure quadrupled, from about 20 to 80 minutes a day. "Much of this time is spent in walking around with the sole purpose of getting out of the house and exercising," Mr Miles said.

But the most dramatic increase was in "domestic work", including household chores, extended shopping expeditions to get out of the house, and do-it-yourself tasks at home. The time devoted to such activities averaged four hours a day for unemployed men and one hour for employed men.

The men without a job had more problems with their physical and mental health, Mr Miles found. But unemployed men who maintain a wide range of social contacts, who keep themselves active and involved in social projects or collective purposes, who keep a regular time structure in their lives, and who feel themselves respected by the world at large, report fewer of the negative psychological symptoms associated with unemployment.

Mr Miles said that there were high levels of financial worries expressed by the unemployed men who were interviewed.

Mr Jenkins: Proposals to the TUC

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Mr Jenkins: Proposals to the TUC

Seeing stars from telescope in space

From Pearce Wright, Brighton

Plans for an optical telescope in space which will be more efficient than the largest ground-based observatory were described by Professor M. S. Longair, Astronomer Royal for Scotland and director of the Royal Observatory, Edinburgh, to the physics section of the association.

It will cost about \$1,000m (£650m) and is designed to fit into the cargo bay of the United States space shuttle. It should be ready for launch in May 1986 and will be placed in a circular orbit 500 km up, where it will be refurbished about every two years.

The telescope is a joint venture of the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the European Space Agency.

Reflecting the excitement developing among astronomers, Professor Longair said: "The space telescope observatory is going to dominate the work and ideas of astronomers until the end of the century. We have been planning our programme at Edinburgh for six years."

He disclosed that the preparatory research from ground-based observatories had revealed in the past month objects that were formed when the universe was less than half its present age. And those were among the oldest formations so far found in the sky.

But he said the new telescope

would reveal galaxies and stars 100 times fainter than those which could be seen by the most powerful instruments available today; it would peer to the furthest reaches of the cosmos to find galaxies which were formed when the universe was less than a third of its present age.

The telescope will help astronomers see how stars, quasars, black holes and other objects have been changing with cosmic time; and that is a fundamental observation for astronomical researchers.

Professor Longair said stars could be observed at very early stages in their evolution through their intense infra-red radiation, although it was not yet clear exactly what stage this represented in star formation.

There were many basic questions to which astronomers had not clear answers. For example, how did the rate of star formation depend upon the temperature, density and chemical composition of the gas clouds from which it was formed?

Some of these questions would be best answered by infra-red observation. The space telescope would have a 2.5 metre (about 100in) mirror, as well as half a dozen "telescope boxes" sized containers carrying the electronic cameras for ultraviolet and infra-red exploration, and planetary studies.

Research race is on in advanced computing

By Our Technology Correspondent

Japan's "fifth generation" computer project has spurred the United States Government to devote hundreds of millions of dollars to research in advancing computing.

Mr Robert Muller of the British computer systems company, SPL International, who recently returned from a tour of Japan and the US, reported his findings at a session organized by the British Computer Society.

"Not since the Russian sputnik started the space race has anything had a similar effect on shaking the US into a major concerted technology programme," he said.

The fifth generation project, a 10-year effort, described as the most ambitious computing project ever mounted, aims at producing computers which think like humans, based on techniques of artificial intelligence.

Industry had only recently become aware of the huge potential benefits of artificial intelligence, Mr Muller said. That was due largely to the first commercial successes of computerized expert systems which represent and use specialized knowledge in the same way as human experts.

The fifth generation project was in a different category from Japan's past victories in technical fields like semi-conductors, video and cameras, Mr Muller said.

"Japan is felt to be awakening to an awareness of its own creative powers. In the fifth generation computer project it has set itself a major technology challenge in an area where there are large research problems yet to be solved. With the cooperation of the West, Japan will probably succeed," Mr Muller predicted.

£2.5m given to teach disabled on computers

The government is to spend £2.5m to put computerized learning equipment into the 700 special schools for disabled children, Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister of State for Industry, announced yesterday.

He said the Department of Trade and Industry already sponsored the development of information technology for the disabled, including the sound bubble, which helps very young children to learn coordination by playing a simple tune, and the contact keyboard, which enables people with coordination problems to use a micro computer.

Researchers at Bristol University, funded by the department, are adapting micros to help deaf children to learn

Mr Baker: "Computers motivate children".

syntax, and the Open University has developed a system to teach blind children Braille. It uses a speech synthesizer to reproduce letters pressed on a Braille machine.

Mr Baker said: "Computers have shown that they can motivate children in a way few adults can and give them confidence by allowing them to achieve results independent of any human being. Their sheer versatility has opened up exciting new areas of educational possibilities."

Handicapped adults could benefit equally from the "compassionate technology" of computers, Mr Baker said. Patients at Stoke Mandeville Hospital who are coming to terms with life-long paralysis find new interests in computers.

"When we had the idea of trying out a few computers on the patients we hardly dared hope for the response we have had, yet patients leaving Stoke Mandeville are going out and buying their own computers."

Science report page 10

School disruption widespread, six-year study shows

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Disruption among pupils in schools appears to be rampant and may be much greater than suggested in the media, according to research conducted over the past six years by academics at London University.

It found that although the disruptive behaviour did not take the form of violence or aggression against teachers, it was in a sense more pervasive and undermining, consisting of inattentiveness and an unwillingness or inability to learn in the way teachers wanted.

Explaining the research yesterday, Dr David Stead, a senior lecturer at Goldsmith's College, London, said that disruption in two London schools, the subject of study, was so widespread as to be normal.

"Yes, paradoxically neither school was obviously disorderly and in both there was evidence that the majority of pupils were learning satisfactorily," he said. When teachers talked about acts of disruption they meant rowdiness, abuse, bad language, talking, chatting and refusing authority.

In school A, a boys' comprehensive in outer London, 101 incidents were recorded in two monitoring periods in the

autumn and spring terms of 1977. In school B, a large, mixed multiracial comprehensive, there were 144, recorded in one week in 1979.

All the incidents were described as sufficiently serious to interrupt teaching and require time-consuming action. If the figures were extrapolated over the 40 weeks of the school year, school A would have 2,020 incidents and school B 5,760.

When the researchers talked to pupils they complained of unfairness and said that other pupils doing the same thing were not punished. They said that teachers made up their minds who the trouble-makers were from past experience.

"Clearly what is happening is that different notions of appropriateness and order are in competition and collision: an imposed order which appears to vary, and a pupil sense of order," Dr Stead said.

"Teachers who attempt to ignore or deny the latter, who refuse to negotiate or rely solely on imposition, should not be surprised if their authority, no longer supported in the same unequivocal way by wider societal norms, breeds resentment, apathy and aggression among their pupils."

Youth culture 'will alter'

By Our Education Correspondent

Big changes in youth culture, its music, clothes and tribal customs, were forecast yesterday as a result of the relative poverty of today's young people compared with their affluent predecessors in the 1960s.

Young people would stay at school until the age of 16 but then would go on to the Youth Training Scheme for one or two years, Mr Stuart MacLure, editor of the *Times Educational Supplement*, said. From there they were likely to enter a world in which they would be employed sometimes but not all the time.

Speaking yesterday at the opening session of the education section, Mr MacLure, the association's president, said that this change was likely to affect family life.

"For many there will be periods of employment interspersed with unemployment, with a return to further education, perhaps, with opportunities for community work, with a mixture of part-time and



Mr MacLure: Forecasts profound changes

temporary jobs, legal and illegal, with periods of elation and hope, poverty and despair.

"The reduced spending power of young people is in itself going to bring about profound changes in the youth culture, the music, the clothes, the tribal customs, which commerce has conjured from the short-lived youthful affluence of the past 30 years."

Graphic account of Manila murder

'I saw guards shoot Aquino in head'

From Our Correspondent Tokyo

A Japanese freelance journalist, who claims to have witnessed the shooting of the Philippine opposition leader, Benigno Aquino, alleges that the fatal shot was fired by one of the military guards who escorted the politician from the aircraft after landing in Manila on Sunday.

Mr Kiyoshi Wakamiya, a passenger on the China Airlines jet which carried Mr Aquino to his death, told a press conference after his return to Tokyo that the military guard fired at a distance of a yard from Aquino's head. Mr Wakamiya said he viewed the scene through the legs of various people crowding the aircraft's exit.

"I saw from inside the plane that two of the three officers, who took him (Aquino) out, pulled out handguns and shot at Mr Aquino's head from a close range within one metre," Mr Wakamiya said.

"At that time (when the aircraft landed), three officers in khaki-coloured uniforms came inside the plane. I think they called him 'senator' or something... he (Aquino) smiled, and asked me to carry his



Mr Wakamiya: 'They pulled out handguns and shot...'

baggage. I was so excited that I don't remember which baggage he asked me to carry...

"When he was about to leave the plane, TV crews, cameramen, dashed after him," Mr Wakamiya said. He said that when he and another reporter had moved between 9 and 12ft "placidly" to the policemen blocked our way."

"Everybody was standing up. I fell down and I could see clear through their legs he (Aquino)

was descending the stairway," he said.

"As he descended, the two officers suddenly pulled out small handguns - I think they were .45s. Mr Aquino was wearing a bulletproof vest, though. They suddenly pulled out handguns."

He said that as the group moved down the stairway from the plane, two officers sandwiched him from his sides and one followed him from behind. Then, when they touched the ground and walked a few steps, there was "bang, bang, bang" as Aquino fell flat forward.

The *Asahi Shimbun* newspaper, also reporting on the press conference, quoted Mr Wakamiya as saying: "I didn't see who fired the shots at that moment. Aquino fell forward without even bending his knees, with blood gushing from his head."

Immediately after Aquino was shot, the Japanese journalist said, another man was pushed by the guards from a waiting military van and then shot dead. The other man is alleged by the Philippine authorities to have been the assassin. The free-lancer said he had "evidence" that the as-



Family tragedy: Kristina Aquino, aged 12, weeping on the shoulder of her sister Maria Elena, aged 27, in Boston on their way to Manila for the funeral of their father.

assassination was premeditated by the Philippine authorities, but gave no details.

According to reports from Manila by others on the flight, Mr Wakamiya was in a highly emotional state after the incident. His account of the events was initially carried by Japan's Kyodo News Service.

There were reports that Japanese newspapers carrying the story of Mr Wakamiya's allegations, are not being allowed into the Philippines.

● MANILA: The Philippines

Government denied the Japanese reports (Reuters and AFP report). A spokesman said that press conference remarks by President Ferdinand Marcos "should be interpreted as an outright denial of the allegations that Aquino was shot by military men."

Police also announced what was described as partial identification of the alleged assassin. They said only that his name appeared to be "Rolly".

Colonel Luis San Andres, the police spokesman, said the partial identification was based on the embroidered name on the waistband of the killer's underpants and a gold ring with the initial "R".

● WASHINGTON: The White House has made clear that President Reagan intends to go ahead with a planned visit to Manila in November despite the assassination. President Reagan had seemed to leave open the possibility of a cancellation when answering reporters in Los Angeles on Monday.

Gdansk workers ignore union go-slow demand

Gdansk (Reuters) - A worker's go-slow called by a secret committee at the Lenin shipyard in Gdansk appeared to have drawn only a negligible response yesterday.

A shipyard spokesman said work went on normally at the sprawling yard employing some 13,000 people which was the birthplace three years ago of Poland's now-banned Solidarity trade union.

Out of more than 30 workers from different departments questioned by Western reporters as they came off the morning shift only four said they knew of the go-slow appeal, made by a clandestine committee known as the TKZ.

The protest had been called to bring pressure on the Communist authorities to begin talks with Mr Lech Walesa, the Solidarity leader. The Government has ruled out negotiations with Mr Walesa and has launched a propaganda campaign against him.

As he entered the shipyard early yesterday Mr Walesa said

the go-slow was going ahead. Questioned about its effectiveness as he left, he would only say: "Ask the people."

Local newspapers said the protest was doomed to failure, but the authorities were clearly concerned by the underground call.

Mr Stanislaw Bejger, leader of the Gdansk Communist Party, visited the yard on Monday to speak to workers, and officials said Mr Jerzy Urban, the government press spokesman had been to the plant yesterday morning.

A new TKZ leaflet said the go-slow should continue until mid-September. Initially it was to have lasted only until August 31, the third anniversary of the Gdansk accord which gave rise to the Soviet block's first independent union.

The leaflet said the protest action should spread across Poland, and repeated a Solidarity underground call for a two-hour national boycott of public transport on August 31.

Leading article, page 9

Australia to double deficit

Canberra (Reuters) - Australia expects a record budget deficit of \$Aus 8.36bn (£4.8bn) up to June 30 next year, against the 1982-83 deficit of \$Aus 4.47bn, the Treasurer, Mr Paul Keating, told Parliament yesterday.

Introducing the Labour Government's first budget, Mr Keating said spending would rise to \$Aus 56.7bn from \$Aus 48.98bn and receipts to \$Aus 48.34bn from \$Aus 44.51bn.

"There can be no doubt that this budget, with a deficit increasing to an estimated 4.7 per cent of gross domestic

product from 2.8 per cent last year, will prove to be highly expansionary," he said.

The main elements of the budget's spending include a rise for social security and welfare to \$Aus 16.84bn from \$Aus 14.11bn and in defence spending to \$Aus 5.28bn from \$Aus 4.78bn.

Foreign aid will rise to \$Aus 836.64m from \$Aus 744.62m including an increase to \$Aus 105.06m in contributions to international aid institutions from \$Aus 67.68m.

Other spending increases include a rise to \$Aus 4.21bn

from \$Aus 3.80bn in education and to \$Aus 4.29bn for health, mainly due to the planned setting up of the Government's Medicare health scheme.

On the revenue side, there were no changes in income and company tax apart from elimination of some minor spending deductions and a tightening of a section of tax law relating to property speculation.

Measures announced in the budget, and a 1 per cent Medicare levy on taxable income, are estimated to increase receipts by \$Aus 1.44bn.

Seoul warns against disruption

Seoul (AFP) - President Chun Doo Hwan of South Korea said yesterday that the peaceful transfer of power was vital to South Korea's democratization. He again made it clear that he would step down when his term ended in 1988.

"We have provided a solid institutional device for democratization and all of us must heed it faithfully," Mr Chun

said. He added that "now was no time to demand democratization but to practice it." His remarks came in a written statement to the presidential press corps.

Mr Chun intimated that he would deal harshly with any political movement that tried to disrupt the constitutional order under the pretext of demanding democratization.

He was apparently alluding to the recent call by Mr Kim Young Sam, the South Korean opposition leader, for a national struggle to win greater democracy.

In the written interview, Mr Chun indicated that he would abide strictly by the constitution which prohibits a president from seeking reelection after a single seven-year term.

Warlord's heroin base seized

From Neil Kelly Bangkok

Thai forces have captured an important base controlled by Khun Sa, the opium warlord, close to the border with Burma. Squadron-Leader Prasong Soonsiri, Thailand's National Security Chief, said last night that the base contained a large laboratory for refining opium.

He said soldiers had found a quantity of opium at the base as well as chemicals for refining opium. The stronghold at Doi Saenchoi in the border mountains of Chiang Mai province contained living quarters, more than 50 defensive bunkers, four watchtowers, storehouses and stables for horses.

Squadron-Leader Prasong said only three Thai soldiers had been wounded in the fighting which had gone on for three days in torrential rain. Casualties among Khun Sa's men were unknown but all of them had been driven back into Burma.

Five parties tell Pinochet to resign

Santiago (Reuters) - The leaders of five Chilean political parties, have given a warning of a social explosion with unpredictable consequences, and called for the resignation of President Augusto Pinochet and a return to democracy within 18 months.

In a nine-page document, the recently formed Democratic Alliance said a plebiscite should be held at once to set up an elected constituent assembly to reform the constitution and act as a legislature during the transition period.

The five parties in the alliance, all formally banned since the 1973 coup which brought General Pinochet to power, have been the prime movers behind a series of anti-government protests, which began in May. Twenty-four people died in the latest protest on August 11 after troops were ordered onto the streets.

"After 10 years, a move to change the political leadership of the state is urgently required. Going beyond political interests, the nation has become convinced that for the good of the country, a person above the quarrels and painful conflicts of recent times is needed," the document said.

It added: "The country and its people today have a democratic alternative... and to refuse it is to drive the country to the precipice or to a social explosion, with unforeseeable consequences."

The document expands on themes put forward by Senator Gabriel Valdes, a former Foreign Minister, two weeks ago when the President of the Christian Democrats announced the creation of the alliance, which groups all the main opposition parties except the Communists.

Mr Yildirim Avcı, the Right Way Party chairman, had noted in the interview that it was not possible even to visualize elections or a democracy which ignored the nation and its will.

EEC differences widen on farm budget

Brussels (Reuters) - Wide differences emerged today in the European Community over a plan to cut farm spending.

The conflicting national views were emphasised in a report by the Council of Ministers' secretariat, which was debated at a meeting of ministers and senior officials.

That unlisted, farm price guarantees must end and that beyond certain production levels, farmers must help to pay the cost of disposing of food surpluses.

But the secretariat reported differences on the size of the farm budget, the share of sacrifice to be borne by differ-

ent farm groups, and the impact of proposed import cuts on relations with other countries.

Yesterday's meeting was preparing for a council of foreign and finance ministers next Tuesday.

The Community's Greek presidency aims at reaching agreement of a thorough overhaul of Community finances at the Athens summit meeting in December.

The report said that West Germany and The Netherlands endorsed this aim and Britain sought even stricter controls, but most other states were hostile to any ceiling on farm spending.

US has 40,000 targets for nuclear attack inside Soviet Union

By Rodney Corbin, Defence Correspondent

The United States has identified 40,000 targets in the Soviet Union for possible nuclear attack in the event of a full-scale nuclear war. This number has risen from about 2,600 in 1960 and 25,000 in 1974.

These facts emerge from a detailed study of United States nuclear targeting policy published by the International Institute for Strategic Studies. It was prepared by Dr Desmond Ball, a Senior Fellow of the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre at the Australian National University in Canberra.

He says that the increase in the number of potential targets arises not because of an increase in the number of Russian installations but because intelligence has located installations not previously known.

He says that at least since 1973 it has not been American policy to aim specifically at the civilian population, but that in practice the significance of this is difficult to discern.

"Large-scale US attacks against Soviet strategic targets and urban-industrial centres would kill from 50 to 100 million people, although successful evacuation measures could reduce the range to 25 to 34 million."

"If population was deliberately targeted, rather than casualties being only side effects of attacks on military and economic targets, then, somewhere between 20 and 30 million additional people would be killed."

"It is apparent that, throughout the entire period since 1945, the number of Soviet installations which US target planners have considered it necessary to target has exceeded the weapons available for employment against them."

The Single Integrated Oper-

ational Plan (SIOP) which governs nuclear strategy contains some 10,000 weapons, but Dr Ball says the number expected to arrive at their target could be fewer than 4,000. He says: "There is no doubt that, to some extent at least, target lists have been generated in order to provide an argument for larger strategic nuclear forces."

It is a myth that US targeting plans have been directed essentially to urban-industrial targets, says the study. The scope for flexibility in the execution of the attack. "Flexibility and an ability to control the escalation process have been official requirements for some two decades at least."

But Dr Ball concludes that the limited nuclear war-fighting option is a chimera, and that "policies which depend upon the ability to maintain escalation control of a nuclear exchange are ultimately incredible."

● **Apparatus attacked:** President Reagan yesterday compared the anti-nuclear stand adopted by the peace movement with Neville Chamberlain's policy of appeasement prior to the outbreak of the Second World War (Nicholas Ashford writes from Washington).

Interrupting his holiday in California to address a meeting of the American Legion in Seattle, he said that peace was an objective and not a policy and that those who failed to understand this did so at their peril. "Chamberlain thought of peace as a vague policy and brought us closer to World War Two. Today's so-called peace movement - for all its modern hype and theatrics - makes the same old mistake."

Reiterating his belief in maintaining peace through strength, the President said:

"My heart is for those who march for peace. I would be at the head of the parade if I thought it would really serve the cause of peace. But the members of the real peace movement - the real peacemakers - are people like you. You understand that peace must be built on strength."

The President defended his Administration's massive arms build-up, especially plans to deploy the controversial 10-warhead MX missile, as a deterrent against the Soviet Union. His intention was to try to compel Moscow to negotiate genuine arms control agreements.

Meanwhile, the US army has decided to delay the next flight test of the troubled Pershing 2 missile until September to allow further time for the rocket's engines to be re-examined.

In 16 previous test flights the Pershing 2, which is due to be deployed in West Germany in December, exploded twice, failed to operate twice and badly missed its target on another occasion.

Senator John Tower (Republican, Texas), chairman of the influential Senate armed services committee and a key ally of President Reagan in Congress on defence issues, has announced he does not intend to seek reelection next year.

The announcement came as a surprise as the senator is aged only 57 and is considered one of the most influential figures on Capitol Hill. Congressional sources speculated that he might be made Secretary of Defence if President Reagan is reelected next year.

Letters, page 9
"Targeting for Strategic Defence" (The International Institute for Strategic Studies, 23 Tavistock Street, London WC2, 12.50.)



Grass-roots aid: US marines in full camouflage ready to train new Lebanese Army recruits in Beirut

Israel opens dialogue with Arab moderates

From Christopher Walker, Bethlehem

Mr Moshe Arens, the new Israeli Defence Minister, has reversed the policy of his predecessor, Reserve General Ariel Sharon, and opened a dialogue with moderate, pro-Jordanian Arab leaders in the occupied territories, including Mr Elias Freij, the Mayor of Bethlehem.

The decision is seen as evidence that the experiment of relying solely on the goodwill of the Israeli-financed Palestinian Village Leagues has been superseded by an attempt to form a broader base of cooperation.

It is also taken as evidence that Palestinian leaders in the West Bank and Gaza Strip are pressing ahead with their stated preference for direct talks with

Israel in despair at the rift in the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The switch in policy was endorsed publicly yesterday when Mr Arens arrived with a heavily armed escort for talks in Bethlehem with the mayor and his 10 elected councillors.

In an interview with *The Times*, Mr Freij, who at the age of 63 is regarded as the most influential West Bank mayor still left at his post, defended his decision to talk with Mr Arens.

He claimed that it was the first meeting he had held with an Israeli Defence Minister for three years. "It is a significant change."

He added: "The Arab world is in disarray, the Europeans

have given up and American policy is totally inconsistent. For the Palestinians, this is the most frustrating situation we have ever had, so what harm can there be in talks aimed at improving the lives of our people?"

"At present there is no chance of a political solution and for all practical purposes, our land has been annexed. In these circumstances, the sensible thing is to sit down and talk to try and make the environment we have to live in more acceptable."

In his meetings with Mr Arens, Mr Freij has pressed for the appointment of moderate, pro-Jordanian Arab mayors to replace the Israeli officials now

running the three largest occupied towns, Nablus, Ramallah and Hebron.

He also urged Israel to annul Military Order 973 which severely restricts the transfer of Arab funds to the West Bank municipalities.

● **TEL AVIV:** Four Israeli soldiers were wounded in southern Lebanon yesterday when an explosive charge went off beside a road near their patrol in the Bekaa Valley (Reuters reports).

The French contingent of the four-nation peacekeeping force reported that two of its jeeps on patrol in west Beirut came under fire from a car just after midnight. French troops returned the fire.

Moscow keeps up attack on Japan

Moscow (AFP) - The Soviet Union stepped up its criticism of Japan with the third press attack in two days on what it called Tokyo's "militarization and anti-Sovietism."

An article in the Communist Party newspaper *Pravda*, accused Mr Shinzo Abe, Japan's Foreign Minister, of fomenting anti-Soviet feeling in Japan while pretending to advocate greater Soviet-Japanese cooperation. Mr Abe stopped over in Moscow briefly on August 13.

On Monday the news agency accused Japan of militarization and of violating its own principles of non-possession, non-fabrication and non-introduction of nuclear arms into Japan. *Izvestia* said Japan would fall victim of US trade protectionism.

Four Transvaal police charged

Pretoria (AFP) - Four policemen from Dicksdorp, eastern Transvaal, will be charged with murder and attempted murder, after the death in custody of Themba Manana, a suspected cattle thief, on April 5.

Thirty inmates of Barberton prison in north-eastern Transvaal, refused to testify at the trial of eight prison officials charged with murdering three prisoners. They want an assurance other staff cannot take revenge on them.

Nazi's suicide

Bonn (AFP) - A former Nazi SS captain, Richard-Wilhelm Freise, aged 74, accused of sending 1,366 German Jews to death camps during the Second World War, committed suicide to escape his trial due in October.

Space delivery

Moscow (Reuters) - A Soviet space module bringing a 770lb cargo of photographs and equipment from the manned orbiting research station Salyut-7 touched down in Central Asia. Still circling Earth is the freight craft Cosmos 1443 that brought the module back.

Trial held up

Dublin - The court martial of Private Michael McAleavy of the Irish Army, accused of murdering three of his UN peacekeeping force colleagues in Lebanon last October, which was due to sit in Beirut today has been postponed because of the shelling there and because of "an administrative hitch."

Captive eunuchs

Geneva (AFP) - Up to half a million men in India and Pakistan have been made eunuchs against their will, according to a report presented to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights here. It added that some 60,000 lower caste women have been forced into prostitution.

Arms dumped

Aschaffenburg (AP) - A highly explosive stockpile of second World War munitions, discovered buried three feet under the busy railway line to Frankfurt was removed secretly by experts without closing the track. It included six tons of live artillery shells and more than a ton of TNT.

Border foray

Berlin (Reuters) - East Germany has protested to West Germany over a border incident on Sunday in which unidentified people crossed from Bavaria into East Germany near the town of Oelsnitz and destroyed frontier installations, the news agency ADN said.

Base blockade

Schwäbisch Gmünd (AFP) - Former US State Department counsellor Mr Daniel Ellsberg, who leaked the Pentagon papers, is to join other public figures next month blockading the American air base here in West Germany destined to deploy Pershing 2 missiles.

French public still in dark about Chad

From Diana Geddes, Paris

President Mitterrand is to break his long silence on French policy towards Chad with an article due to appear tomorrow in the usually pro-government newspaper, *Le Monde*.

There has been criticism in the right-wing press about presentation of such critical issues in a form which permits no cross-questioning. President Mitterrand has made no comment since the decision at the beginning of August to send troops.

That decision was taken without the specific approval of Parliament, which has been in recess, nor even consultation with the Cabinet which is due to meet today for the first time in three weeks.

Indeed, the appearance yesterday of M Claude Cheysson before the foreign relations committee of the National Assembly was the first occasion on which MPs have been able to put any questions to ministers on the affair. The meeting was held in private.

The general public has been kept strangely in the dark. There has been virtually total blackout on all official news concerning Chad, which has finally prompted a vigorous protest from exasperated French journalists.

An article in *Le Monde* last week, which it was later

revealed was based on an interview with M Mitterrand made clear that while he was in favour of a "scrupulous observation" of France's 1976 treaty with Chad, he wanted to avoid French involvement in actual fighting. France's sole interest was to get the Libyans out of Chad.

That view was supported yesterday by M Roland Dumas, President Mitterrand's emissary to Colonel Gaddafi, who told *Le Matin* that there was "absolutely no question of (France) launching itself into some neo-colonial operation."

The socialists in opposition have always been highly critical of France's role as the policeman of Africa and have no wish to find themselves forced back into that position.

● **WASHINGTON:** The Reagan administration is withdrawing its two A-7C radar surveillance aircraft from North Africa after France's decision to send combat jets and support aircraft to Chad (Nicholas Ashford writes).

"According to diplomatic sources, one of the main reasons for sending them was to encourage the French to send additional military assistance."

American officials said the presence of French aircraft in Chad meant that the A-7Cs were no longer necessary.

Chemical arms dump on show

Geneva (Reuters) - The United States yesterday invited the Soviet Union and other nations to inspect a chemical weapons destruction site at a US army base in Utah.

Mr Morris Busby the United States alternate representative to the 40-nation disarmament committee, said verification of destruction of chemical weapon stockpiles was a main obstacle in negotiations for an international chemical weapons ban.

He invited all delegations to visit the facility, at Tooele, in Utah, around mid-November. The Soviet Union, Canada, Indonesia, the Netherlands and West Germany were further asked to make presentations on their experiences of chemical weapon stockpiling.

The United States says the system used at Tooele, which it says would only require a handful of inspectors, would help to accelerate negotiations for a chemical weapons ban in an effort to meet Soviet concerns about the intrusiveness of on-site inspection of stockpile destruction.

Mr Busby denied Soviet accusations that lack of progress at the negotiations was due to United States plans to produce binary chemical weapons.

Ex-secret agent held in Pretoria

From Our Correspondent Johannesburg

A former South African secret agent who was security adviser to the Government of the Ciskei bantustan was released from a mental hospital on the orders of a judge.

Major-General Tailleur Minnaar is being held pending a decision on his extradition to the Ciskei which is one of four independent black homelands.

A former member of South Africa's Bureau of State Security, General Minnaar was security adviser to the Ciskei Government under Lieutenant-General Charles Sebe, brother of President Sebe. Both were arrested in the homeland last month in a purge ordered by President Sebe after the discovery of a plot to overthrow him.

A police spokesman said in Pretoria that General Minnaar was wanted in the Ciskei on charges under the Explosives Act and Arms Act.

General Minnaar, who had been held in prison in the Ciskei after his arrest, arrived mysteriously at the mental hospital a week ago. In a note to the court he said that a woman doctor could find nothing wrong with him.

New York's hungry children

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

Medical teams started examining 7,000 children in New York yesterday after investigators found malnutrition and disease among families living in hotels at the city's expense.

A check by New York state health officials found "significant rates of malnutrition and disease" among children living in conditions of "instability, squalor, violence and hunger."

The investigators reported: "The majority of children we saw were more than malnourished. They were weak, underweight, apathetic, diseased and suffering from serious and possibly irreversible physical and mental infirmities."

The report comes at a time when hunger and the conditions of the poor are emerging as a national issue in the US and concern is growing over the effects of government cuts on the poor. President Reagan has ordered an inquiry into the level of hunger in the country.

The malnourished children in New York are in 2,100 families living in hotel rooms partly paid for by the city. They have moved from their own homes because of fire, eviction or inability to pay high rents. Many of the hotels they live in are squalid and infested with rats and insects.

For the hotel owners the homeless are good business. Owners charge rent for each individual at rates agreed with the city. On one rundown hotel a family of two parents and four children is charged \$1,150 a month. But the city is allowed to give a family \$145 a month

for rent, a sum unchanged in eight years. A family also gets a food allowance because most of the hotels do not have cooking facilities.

Mayor Edward Koch, who ordered the examination of the children, said yesterday: "We take care of these people better than any other city, keeping them in hotels at great expense until apartments become available. Should we put them in the Waldorf Astoria?" He added: "It takes people to put that smell of urine in the hotels."

The scandal of New York's malnourished children focuses attention on the city's chronic shortage of low-income housing. The number of displaced families in the city is twice that of last year.

Honduras asks Reagan for permanent base

Tegucigalpa (Reuters) - Honduras is pressing for a permanent US naval base during the Second World War, now the site of a counter-insurgency training centre for Salvadoran soldiers.

● **AMSTERDAM:** The Dutch Government has forbidden the Royal Dutch Navy frigate Van Nes to join an American squadron on manoeuvres off the coast of Nicaragua (Robert Scholten writes).

The Van Nes, together with a Dutch Navy patrol aircraft, will be joining the yearly American fleet manoeuvres near Puerto Rico for the next few weeks.

A squadron of six ships is to detach itself from the manoeuvres and sail for the coast of Nicaragua to impress Managua and Havana, according to American officials, that the US is capable of stopping arms shipments from Cuba to Nicaragua.

likely place for a permanent base would be Puerto Castilla, a US naval base during the Second World War, now the site of a counter-insurgency training centre for Salvadoran soldiers.

Diplomatic sources said that permanent base would increase US military ties with Honduras, the US's closest ally in Central America.

"It is subject the Hondurans keep bringing up but which the US keeps ducking", said one diplomat, who asked not to be identified.

More than 5,000 US troops are flowing into Honduras now for the biggest war games ever held in the region. Two powerful naval fleets will be off either coast of the Central American isthmus as the exercises are held in conjunction with 6,000 Honduran troops.

Honduran military officials have denied plans exist for a permanent US base, but Colonel John Mrus of the US Army said on Friday that a joint decision would be taken on whether the training camp set up for the six to eight-month exercises should remain after the manoeuvres end.

The sources said the most

Satellite smasher to be tested

From Our Own Correspondent New York

The Americans are about to test a satellite smashing missile fired from a jet fighter.

The *Star Wars* type missile contains no explosive. The warhead, a cylinder about 1ft long, is designed to lock electronically onto its target and to crash into a satellite at 30,000 miles an hour.

The test, according to *The New York Times* yesterday, is to take place shortly. An Air Force spokesman said: "All I can say is that the weapon is non-nuclear and fired from an F15."

The 18ft missile is a two-stage rocket designed to be carried to a height of 18 miles by an F15 fighter before being launched in the direction of a satellite. The rockets speed it towards the target.

Minister quits

Ottawa (Reuters) - Canadian Mines Minister, Mr Roger Simmon, resigned after only 10 days in office citing "personal reasons".

Spain's Catholic schools feel the pinch

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Spain's Socialist Minister of Education has begun to exert greater control, through the purse strings, over the many private schools run by the Roman Catholic Church.

In a ministerial order slipped into the official gazette at the height of the holiday season, Señor José Mariával, aged 41, who has an Oxford doctorate in sociology, has set new levels of state subsidies to all church and other private schools from September 1.

There will be tighter accounting, and limits on the amounts the schools may charge parents for extras.

In no other West European country, except perhaps Belgium, does the Catholic Church play such an important role in both primary and secondary education. It is responsible for teaching roughly one-third of all Spanish schoolchildren.

Last year state subsidies to all private schools for compulsory

education between six and 14 totalled 70,000m pesetas (more than £310m), double the figure the previous Centre Democrat governments found when they took over after the Franco years.

It was the neglect of state schools by that regime which produced the blossoming of the private sector over the past 25 years, not all of it up to standard. These are the business interests which now back Spain's Catholic bishops in their mistrust of Señor Mariával.

The subsidies will go up by only 3 per cent this autumn. The Private Schools Federation had asked for a 10 per cent increase, expecting the minister to give them 6 to 8 per cent.

A spokesman of the federation commented to *Ya*, the Catholic daily: "This is the beginning of the sinking of the private education system."

Señor Mariával's order has

been immediately recognized as a forerunner of the struggle expected this autumn between the Government and the Catholic hierarchy when Parliament takes up his Bill, entitled *The Right to Education*, which includes far-reaching reforms to both primary and secondary education.

Positions have already been taken up. Mgr Gabino Díaz Merchán, chairman of the Bishops' Conference, has accused the state of seeking to supplant the basic "human rights" of parents to educate their children as they see fit.

Señor Mariával has declared that with limited public funds, "the right of every Spanish child to a decent education" must be paramount.

Continuing church influence over education was one of the demands made by the Pope when he visited Spain last November. Señor Mariával's order came just as a position

paper, drawn up by the Catholic bishops and appealing to the government to be "generous" and respect the church's role in Spanish society, had been leaked to the press.

It lists a string of complaints concerning the way in which the Spanish state's 1979 agreement with the Vatican, which replaced the Franco concordat, has been implemented. Under the agreement the Catholic Church receives an annual 6,000m pesetas subvention from the Spanish exchequer.

Remembering how Spain's Second Republic antagonized the church before the Civil War, the Government of Señor Felipe González, with its many practicing Catholic voters, has given the church vigorous treatment.

The forthcoming struggle over state and private education will be the big test of whether the Government or the bishops have public opinion on their side.

Shagari's men lead Senate poll

Lagos (AFP) - With 77 of 85 declared results from last Saturday's federal Senate elections, the ruling National Party of Nigeria of President Shagari has won more seats than any other single party but looks likely to miss an overall majority.

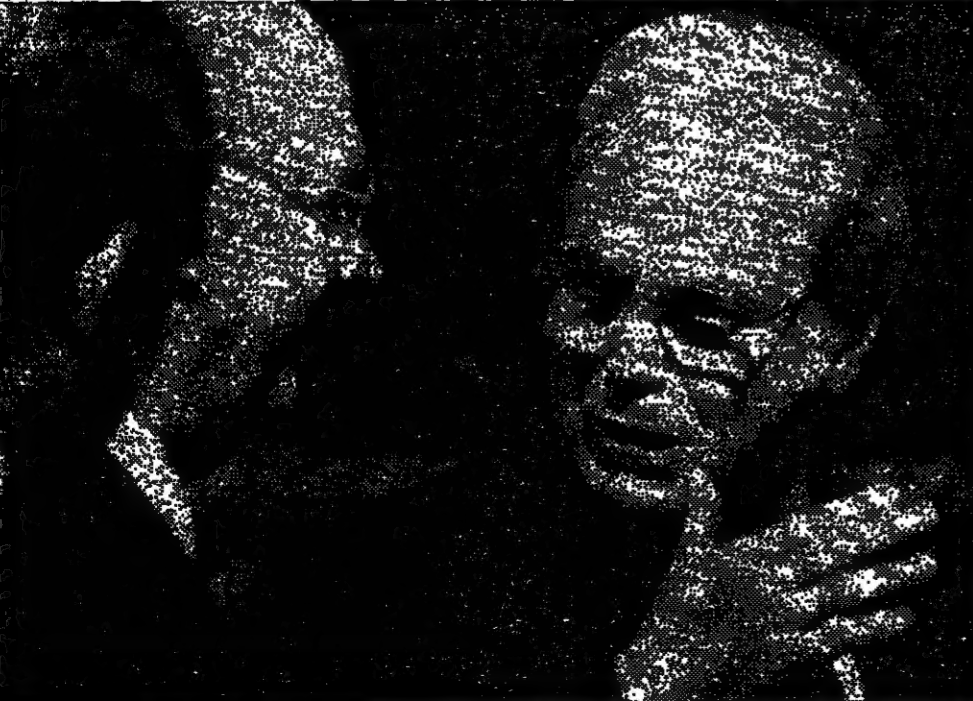
By early yesterday the WPN had won 47 seats, and was expecting a few more from the undeclared results in the polls conducted in 17 out of the 19 states.

Senatorial elections were not held in the western states of Oyo and Ondo, former strongholds of Chief Obafemi Awolowo's Unity Party of Nigeria where the WPN's governorship victories resulted in political violence last week.

All further elections in Ondo have been suspended until further notice while the senatorial polls in Oyo state and one district in adjacent Kwara state were postponed until September 10.

The UPN, the WPN's strongest rival, had won only 12 Senate seats, mainly from its western domain. The Nigerian People's Party led by Nnamdi Azikiwe, the former President, won its 11 seats from the party's eastern base.

The People's Redemption Party of the Muslim reformer, Mr Mallam Aminu Kano, who died earlier this year, lost the two governorships it won in 1979 but took five senatorial seats in Kano state declared by the Federal Electoral Commission on Monday night. The Great Nigeria People's Party of Mr Wazir Brissau which came out of the governorship polls empty handed, won a Senate seat in Kwara state.



Face to face: Mr P. W. Botha, the South African Prime Minister, with Dr Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the United Nations Secretary-General, in Cape Town yesterday. They discussed speeding the process towards independence for Namibia.

S Africa reform debate axed

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

A fierce row broke out yesterday over the Pretoria Government's decision to gut the debate on its constitutional reform Bill, which is being fought through every one of its 102 clauses by the official opposition and the ultra-right Conservatives.

Since debate began three days ago on the committee stage of the bill, which has had its second reading, only 10 clauses have been approved. The Government has decided that debate and all amendments except those of the minister in charge of the Bill will fall away. The House of Assembly will sit

late on Friday night and, for the first time for years, on Saturday morning, to complete the committee stage.

There was speculation yesterday that the Government's decision could preclude an imminent announcement of a date for a referendum for whites on the constitutional plan, which will give South Africa three chambers of Parliament for whites, Coloureds and Asians.

Mr Alf Widman of the official opposition Progressive Federal Party accused the Government of breaking its pledge that "ample opportunity would be given to Parliament to discuss

the most important bill to come before this house, certainly in our time."

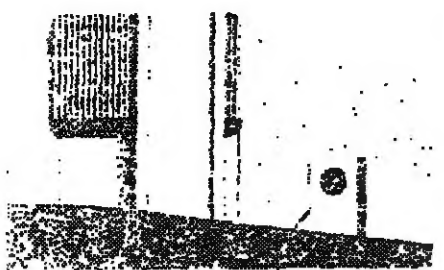
Mr Widman said the official opposition was shocked that there had been no consultation before the Government took its decision. He and other Jewish MPs would be forced to sit on the sabbath.

There seems little doubt that the Government's move has been forced on it by the tactics of the Conservative Party, which regards the bill as a self-out of white self-determination. It is objecting to everything in the measure, even the grammar.

SPECTRUM

The new and prodigious Wistow Mine was producing coal at four times the national average speed when 18 million gallons of water suddenly flooded the NCB showpiece. The board, hoping to restart operations in a month's time, said the calamity was unforeseeable. Some experts disagree, writes Alan White

Pitting their wits against water



There is no such thing as a routine Saturday morning in a coalmine only three weeks old: engineers and production workers are still feeling their way, testing new machinery, working out new procedures. But July 23 was as routine as might be expected.

Wistow Mine, first of five pits in the new £1,000m Selby Coalfield, had been turning out prodigious amounts of coal from the single face that had been brought into use three weeks before. Already, it was producing coal at four times the national average speed: a Yorkshire Television camera crew were 300 yards below ground, making a film on the mine's promising start.

The crew were still filming when a cry, not of alarm, but of curiosity went up from the coalface. Water was seeping through the black wall of solid, high quality coal, standing eight feet high and 135 yards across. There was no panic, but the mine was cleared of all but essential staff.

Within hours of the first trickle, a torrent of 2,500 gallons of water a minute was pouring through the coalface, flooding a sizable part of the mine. The affair became public knowledge about 24 hours later; immediately, fears were expressed among management and workers that the situation might be hopeless, that a project on which the coal industry's future credibility and prosperity depended might end up as a giant underground lake.

Theoretically, it should never have happened. Even now, the National Coal Board admit they do not know why it did happen, and the only way they will find out will be by a series of cautious experiments now being planned at the NCB's North Yorkshire headquarters outside Leeds.

Almost the entire coalfield is overlaid by a thick blanket of water-soaked limestone, known to the NCB engineers as the permian layer. Between this and the coal are layers of other rocks, shales and clay which effectively seal in hundreds of millions of gallons of water or at least they do so until mining begins.

To get at the coal you have to go down through the water-bearing rock. If it is disturbed or broken in any way, the water is released.

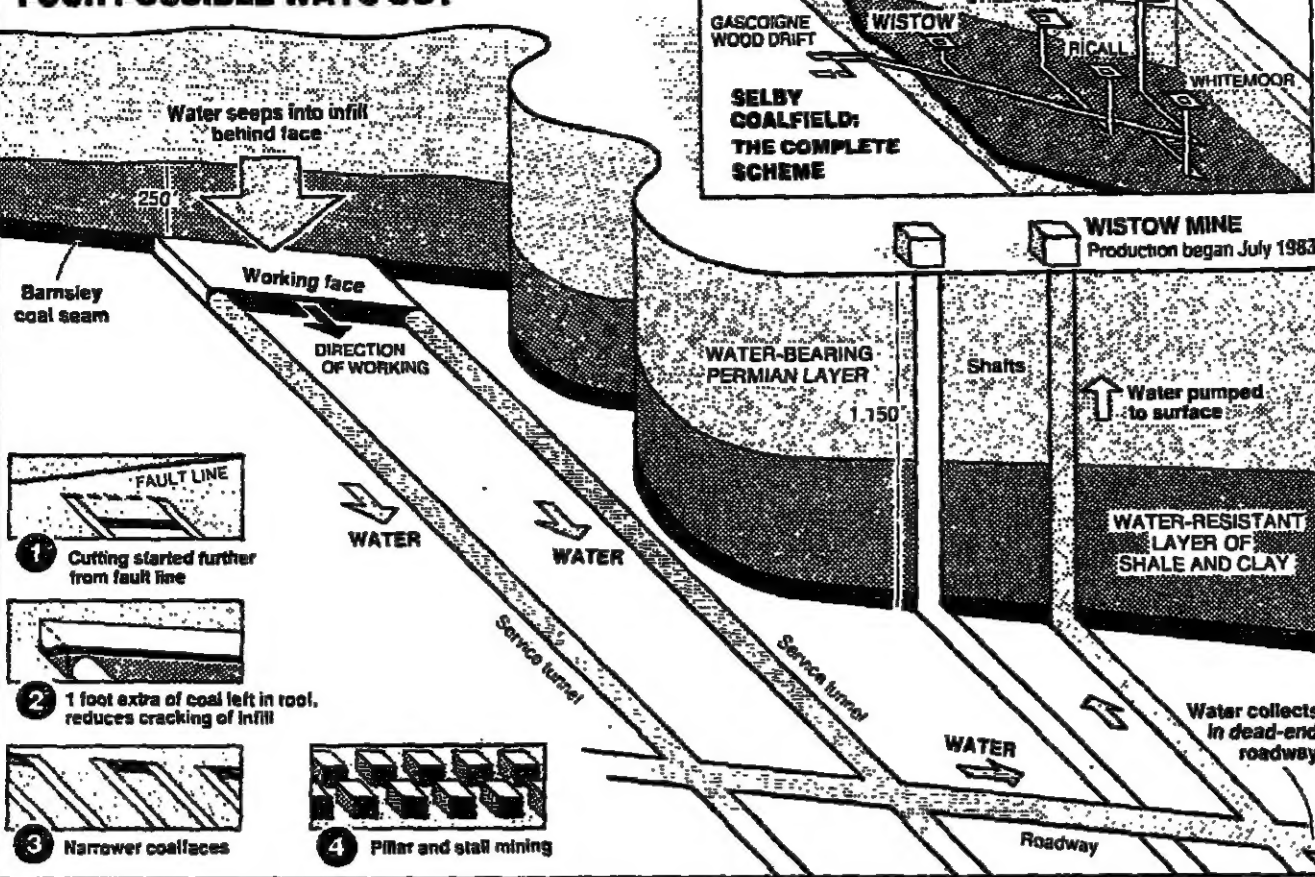
But the Wistow coal face should have been safe. The minimum safety limit is 160 feet between water-bearing rock and the coalface. At Wistow it was 250 feet, and to add to the safety margin, the coalface itself is a very narrow one.

Water always has been the hazard at Selby. It is a high investment programme aimed at having five "super-pits" working trouble-free high production coal faces and turning out thousands of tonnes a day.

When complete, well over £1,000m will have been spent on it. Like many large projects, it is costing rather more than expected, and is coming on stream rather late. At Wistow, this is almost entirely due to problems with water.

Merely to get the shafts at the pit sunk, the coal board's engineers had to import a huge amount of refrigeration plant to freeze solid the water in the limestone to prevent the shaft being flooded out even as it was being bored.

WHAT WENT WRONG AT WISTOW - FOUR POSSIBLE WAYS OUT



The ground surrounding it was frozen, the hole excavated and then lined with a special costly grouting cement to keep it watertight after the surrounding rocks have been allowed to thaw out.

At one point, the surrounding rocks, balked at the cavalier treatment meted out to them by the NCB's engineers, began breaking up around the shaft, causing the entire cement lined tunnel to break away and start rising upwards.

UNTIL that Saturday morning they thought that they had, beaten the water hazard apart from what miners dismiss as "nuisance water" - the trickles and small streams that trouble every colliery from time to time. But this was no trickle. As the alarm went up and the flow increased, a desperate search for spare pumps was set in motion all over the Yorkshire coalfield.

Lorries carrying ready-mix cement and lengths of piping turned up at the pithead. A newly-driven underground roadway, which will serve the third coalface to come into operation in a few months' time, was quickly turned into an emergency sump, capable of holding 20 million gallons of water, to save the rest of the workings from flooding.

At the worst moment, it was virtually brimfull with 18 million gallons contained. It was no dramatic inrush, as in the infamous Lofthouse Colliery disaster of 10 years ago, but the sheer volume coupled with a seemingly endless flow of water caused several black moments for the rescue team.

For the moment at least, the battle has been won. Pumps are now taking water out more quickly than it is getting in. The flow of water has slowed considerably and the coal board say the mine should be working again within eight weeks.

The NCB team say the incident was not foreseeable, and with any luck was a one-off affair, something which will probably not happen again, especially since, as the work progresses, the mine will gradually move into deeper and

deeper coal reserves farther away from the water-bearing permian layer.

This is not a view shared by every expert. Some engineers outside the NCB say it is difficult to decide whether the coal board is being totally open and honest about the affair.

The seriousness with which the NCB take confidentiality can be judged from an incident a couple of weeks ago, when a Yorkshire artist photographed a collection of new colliery headgear. He was asked for his film, and it was returned minus the headgear negatives.

Dr John Stocks, of the Royal School of Mines, commented: "This makes it very difficult to give any sensible answers about how this incident is likely to affect the future of the Selby project. The NCB play their cards very close to their chest."

"But this must have some adverse effects on their cash flow. The pit is not earning money and putting the damage right will cost extra money. The project has already been subject to some unexpected delay because of the Wistow shaft problem."

"There was considerable euphoria about the project 10 years ago when it was seen as the answer to a lot of problems. Selby is not the attractive proposition that it once was."

"Nor am I saying that this is something which will blight the whole coalfield, but it will almost certainly increase the cost of getting to some of the coal, and I would say there is every possibility of it happening again. I think it very likely they will have to modify their working practices."

In the past, the Monopolies Commission has also been critical of the NCB for making over-optimistic assessments about the coalfield's ability to earn a very high return on the investment. But an indication of how divided opinion is outside the coal board comes from Professor John Tunnicliffe of Newcastle University's department of mining engineering.

He agrees with Dr Stocks that flooding could happen again, but says: "I think the NCB will be able to work at the rate they want to cover the investment. I cannot see it having any great effect at all."

Whether the incident could have been forecast is also causing some debate. The NCB say it could not, some outside sources say the science of subsidence and geological dynamics is such that it should have been possible to predict the inrush.

Says one prominent geologist working in North Yorkshire: "I cannot see why they could not foresee this. They are the leaders in this field, and from the outside, it does not seem to be an exceptional geological circumstance."

This is disputed by Mr Michael Eaton, North Yorkshire area director of the NCB. "Even with the benefit of hindsight we do not think there was any way that this affair could have been predicted," he says.

He now has a list of options that gradually descend a ladder of desirability in terms of coal production and profit. Each potential remedy will be tried out in turn, and the success or otherwise of each step should give the mining engineers valuable clues about what caused the inrush.

To understand the proposed cures, it is necessary to understand the system of mining employed in the Selby field. It is a system known as "retreat mining" because the coalface gradually moves backwards towards the original starting point on one of the pit's underground service tunnels.

Basically, two parallel tunnels will be driven into the seam of coal. Selby's thick, pure seams are ideal for this. The tunnels are driven for a pre-determined length, and the space between them becomes the coalface.

Coal cutters move across the face, between the two tunnels rather like the shuttle on a loom. This leaves a void behind the coalface, and the strata above the coal seam is allowed to collapse, in a controlled way, into this empty space. It is this which causes the familiar mining subsidence.

At Wistow the width of the coalface is 135 yards, and by mining standards this is narrow. The width was chosen to keep surface subsidence in the Selby area to within one metre. Similar considerations mean that only between 50 and 60 per cent of the coal will ever be mined.



Far left: the Selby pithead and, above, the revolutionary coalface cutter

The twin tunnels drilled for Wistow's first face stopped short of a known fault line. Again, this is common practice to avoid problems with either gas or water. The favourite theory is that this separation distance was not enough, and the fault line has slipped, allowing water to cascade through the coalface.

"If this does turn out to be the trouble, then the remedy is simple. We simply start farther away from the fault. We know exactly where it runs, and while we would lose some coal, the amounts involved would be minuscule," said Mr Eaton.

Alternatively, it may be the permian rocks shattering as they collapse behind the coalface, releasing the water. If this is the case, we can either leave an extra foot or so of coal in the roof, which does not sound a lot, but would have a significant effect, or we could work narrower coalfaces.

"We thought this shattering would be impossible, that the distance between the permian layer and the coal was too great for it to happen, but we also thought an inrush of water was impossible. As the impossible has happened once, we want to make sure it does not happen again." Leaving a foot of coal behind in the roof of the seam would theoretically reduce the mine's productivity by 12 per cent or so, but the NCB engineers believe this might be partly overcome by cutting more coal from the floor or sides of the seam.

SIMILARLY, resorting to narrower coalfaces would also hamper productivity because more sets of twin tunnels would have to be drilled.

If all else fails, the coal board will abandon any attempts at bulk production, and instead concentrate on winning the coal bit by bit with pillar and stall mining, an old fashioned technique which basically involves drilling a series of tunnels into the seam. The only concession to high-technology would be cutting machinery rather than picks and shovels. The coal would be got, but at a much slower rate.

But Mr Eaton said: "We should put the whole thing in perspective. If the worst comes to the worst, we are only talking about 15 million tonnes of coal. The total reserves at Selby are 300 million tonnes, so the coal at risk is only 5 per cent of the total."

Even so, the public image of the Selby project has been one of a mass-producer of very cheap coal to feed the voracious appetites of the Yorkshire power stations. This image has been carefully fostered by the NCB who have nurtured their prodigy in the glow of constant publicity.

Now the first doubts have been raised. Everyone agrees that similar flooding could happen again. What no one can say is how serious it might be next time around. At best it is a nuisance the NCB could have done without. At worst a low-tech ending to what was intended as a high-tech demonstration of the coal board's world-beating abilities.

moreover...
Miles Kington

Double trouble and yellow lines

We have already read trials of men who removed yellow clamps without asking the police's permission, but today we have something worse: a man who is accused of removing a double yellow line. Moreover, I am proud to print exclusive extracts from the trial.

Police witness... was pointed on the road in 1980 by William Carrstairs, a road-painter. It was the property of the Metropolitan Police. On July 14, I observed that a section of it was missing.

Counsel: Where was it?

Police: I don't know. It was missing.

Counsel: Where was it missing from?

Police: Sears Roebuck Road, W1, sir.

Under the car belonging to the defendant, registration number SHE 1K.

Judge: A curious number.

Defendant: I hire it out a lot to Arabs, sir. It looks like SHEIK. They love it.

Judge: Quiet! You will get your turn in a moment.

Counsel: No further questions.

Clerk: Call the defendant.

Defendant: Here I am, sir. That was a short moment, to be sure.

Judge: Quiet!

Defendant: I'm sorry, I was under the impression that it was my turn to...

Judge: You speak when you are asked questions.

Defendant: That seems fair. Fire away.

Counsel: You are Seamus Daidy, of course?

Defendant: I am that.

Counsel: What is your profession?

Defendant: In Ireland I was a motor dealer, sir, but I heard that there were any amount of openings on British TV and radio for bright men with Irish accents, so over I came. Sadly, things have not turned out as I hoped, and I am now forced to run a car hire firm with a turnover of many millions of pounds. Still, it's not the same. Not that I envy Terry, of course.

Counsel: Quite. And on July 14 you parked your car in Sears Roebuck Road, W1, on a double yellow line?

Defendant: No, sir. I parked my car there, but there was no double yellow line.

Counsel: I suggest to you that you found the double yellow line when you arrived, that you scraped away the yellow line and then parked in the space thus formed!

(Silence.)

Judge: Well, Mr Daidy? Answer the question.

Defendant: He hasn't asked me a question, sir.

Judge: (Consulting notes.) True. Would you like to ask him a question, Mr Chambers?

Counsel: Did you scrape away the yellow line?

Defendant: No. (Sensation in court.)

Counsel: (Breathily sarcastic.) Are you asking the court to believe that the authorities had painted all of Sears Roebuck Road except the bit you wanted to park on? Are you seriously suggesting that a space the size of a car had specially been left? Do you want us to think that William Carrstairs, road-painter, had left a gap for artistic effect? Can pigs fly? Is the moon made of cheese? What porridge ate John Keats?

Judge: All right, Bill, steady on. You're too old to get rattled by the Irish.

Counsel: I'm sorry, Colin. Things haven't been too easy recently. What with the wife leaving me, the children taking to drugs and Barbican Puzzle losing the 2.30 at Newbury, I've been under some stress.

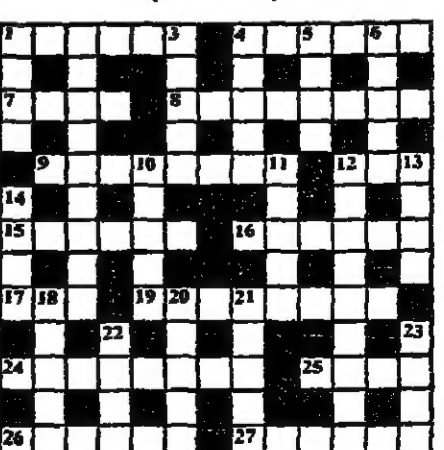
Judge: I understand. I had a couple of hundred on Barbican Puzzle myself.

Defendant: A no-hoper. You should have had your money stacked on Glue Sniffer, like I did.

Judge: Quiet in court! This is intolerable. The court is adjourned.

(More tomorrow.)

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 132)



- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Wood cutter (6) | 1 Weeps heavily (4) |
| 4 Truthful (6) | 2 Brown flour (9) |
| 7 Complaint (4) | 3 Lariat (5) |
| 8 Fish tank (8) | 4 Alluring woman (5) |
| 9 Mental calmness (8) | 5 Informer (4) |
| 12 Pallid (3) | 6 Diver's tank (5) |
| 15 Anxious (6) | 10 Hazards (5) |
| 16 Typewriter roller (6) | 11 Book of maps (5) |
| 17 Girl (3) | 12 H2O charge (3,4) |
| 19 Paper cutters (8) | 13 Not gentle (3,1) |
| 24 Suicidal pilot (8) | 14 Snapper (4) |
| 25 Bucket (4) | 18 Frighten (5) |
| 26 Tobacco user (6) | 20 Preside (3) |
| 27 Servant's uniform (6) | 21 Magic formula (5) |
| | 22 Swindle (4) |
| | 23 Perform (4) |

SOLUTION TO No 131
 ACROSS: 1 Morel 5 Lack 8 Assay 9 Gremelin 11 Hesitate 13 Herr 15 Confident 18 Veal 19 Agnostic 22 Drifter 23 Kneel 24 Germ 25 Denims
 DOWN: 2 Oasis 3 Say 4 Light fingered 5 Leak 6 Collect 7 Maths 10 Norm 12 Tint 14 Veil 15 Cyanide 16 Avid 17 Sculp 20 Thern 21 Stem 23 Kin

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There is a real need to protect these animals, as the final article in this series shows Monkey turns professor

Cyril Rosen is a trim little man of indeterminate age who moves and talks briskly, even brusquely, like an impatient cynomolgus macaque. He is United Kingdom secretary of the International Primate Protection League (IPPL); he is, in fact, monkey nuts.

Rosen met his first primate 25 years ago: an ailing West African monkey which he came across in the bedroom of a doctor's daughter. It had been a gift from the girl's fiancé and she - not being a monkey expert - kept it tied to her bed all day while she attended classes. At night it was given a few nuts, but it also began eating its tail (many laboratory monkeys also self-mutilate). It was about to be put down when Rosen took the animal into his own home and effected an arduous cure.

"That monkey," he says, "became my professor of primatology. I thought I was doing the teaching, but all the time he was training me."

That first friend died at the end of its natural span, but Rosen and his family have known many monkeys since, his home becoming something of a fostering pad for in-transit primates. Living with a monkey, Rosen says, requires a willingness to acknowledge another complex, sentient being and also to relinquish actual territory.

"At one time man was defined as the only tool-using animal, then he was redefined as the only tool-making animal, then the only animal capable of conceptual thought. All these distinctions have dissolved and now we just do not know any more



Reaching out for some creature comfort

where the boundary lies. I therefore think it is very dangerous to say we can do to primates what we wouldn't do to humans, because before very long we will do it to humans, if it is at all possible. This has happened in the past and it will happen in the future."

There is a move towards developing alternatives. The Fund for Replacement of Animals in Medical Experiments (Frame), with its roster of scientific members, is regularly assessing ideas and urging the application or further research into the better ones.

The most celebrated monkey defence action to date was the undercover work accomplished by a young American, Alex Pacheco, at the Institute for Behavioural Research in Maryland. Pacheco, amassed a mountain of documents and photographs showing the abuse of the institute's primate colony, and so impressed were the local police that they initiated a raid, removing 17 of the macaques into protective

custody and arresting the director of the project on cruelty charges.

The director, Dr Edward Taub, is currently appealing against that cut-off and against his conviction on the charge of not providing medical attention. This was the only charge on which the state of Maryland could prosecute.

The Taub case nevertheless placed primates at the centre of the liberationist stage. In the next 12 months Mobilization for Animals, embracing 400 welfare and protection groups around the world, plans to organize mass demonstrations at all the US primate centres and at major institutions overseas.

Cyril Rosen believes that while these are substantial developments, ultimately the monkey's best hope lies not in mass action, but in plain economics.

"What really stopped human slavery was the growth of the industrial society and the need for humans as purchasers rather than as

slaves. If monkeys become so scarce and expensive that they are an impractical tool for much routine work - as is becoming the case - then the alternative is to look for cheaper tools. Man is ingenious enough to find those other means."

Some small conservation measures have been taken lately to preserve monkeys. To complicate matters, however, there is now a host of programmes posing under the conservation label, yet which may be according to Rosen no more than dressed-up procurement projects: the source countries get half-hearted research and breeding aid, and America, in particular, gets the monkeys. Many of these projects are inspired by US government agencies, while the World Health Organization has also been drawn in to lend its own considerable leverage.

The IPPL is undertaking what it believes to be a more effective approach to the scarcity problem. In Rwanda, for instance, it has helped set up anti-poaching patrols on behalf of the rare mountain gorilla, and in Gambia it supports a project through which orphaned US laboratory chimps are returned to the wild.

These actions are perhaps dribbles against the general tide, of significance only to a supreme optimist. For the greatest problem that confronts the world's wild and captive primates is the one that imperils the rest of the globe - a plague of foolish humans.

Andrew Tyler

Additional reporting by John May (UK) and Lee Torrey (US).

مركز الأمل

WEDNESDAY PAGE

Barry Manilow arrived in England yesterday. Two women are ready for him

St Barry's disciples

"A bumper helping of Manilow to you all!" Have a very Barry Christmas. The 17,000 members of the BMIFC (Barry Manilow International Fan Club) UK have their own special language as well as their own special quarterly magazine called *Prelude*. The operation is managed by Mollie and Lynn, two humorous women in their forties, who are coy about revealing their surnames or the stories behind their broken marriages but forthcoming on the subject of their hero, the bespectacled, thin warbler with the rippling blond curls, who has just entered the *Guinness Book of Records* for the fastest ever Broadway show sell-out.

Manilow is known variously as Mr Magic and The Housewives' Heart-throb.

"He's a very special person," Lynn said. "It's going to sound really silly to say that sometimes someone comes along who has that extra special charisma, but that's what Barry is. I think he should be called Saint Barry, don't you?"

The Surbiton office of BMIFC (UK) is wall to wall Manilow mania with enough posters, photographs and mementos of BM to keep the 17,000 in a permanent swoon. In some of the posters, Barry's blue eyes, under expert lighting, have turned Mollie's brown, giving him the look of a sick camel. Mollie said this was because, unlike vain performers, Barry allows photographs to be taken during his concerts and the results aren't always perfect.

Before Mr Magic entered their lives, Mollie and Lynn were part-time secretaries. In 1978, they went to Barry's first British concert at the London Palladium and became so devoted that Arista, Barry's record company, asked them to take over his fan club.

"It was going to be a hobby," said Mollie, "just something we did a couple of evenings a week." But as the club grew from 535 members to a figure topped only by the Elvis Presley fan club, it became clear that Barry needed Mollie and Lynn's full-time attention.

Lynn continued her office job for a while, clamping on empty carphones and wearing a busy expression as she did fan-club correspondence. She got the sack when this was discovered and then she and Mollie set up the Surbiton office, funded partly by the £5 fan club subscriptions and partly by Barry's personal management company, which chips in with the odd Telex machine.

Last year, they went to all 14 United Kingdom Manilow concerts and organized conventions, includ-



Mollie, left, and Lynn: not completely fulfilled by motherhood

ing one at the Blackpool Pottins where the fans played Barry Bingo. "The prizes were all something to do with Barry, like a Barry T-shirt, and the numbers were matched to his songs like 'Forty-four, Break down the Door'."

This year they took a party of British fans to the Chicago convention. In addition to editing *Prelude*, they order badges and car stickers - a sample on Mollie's Renault proclaims "Barry I Wanna Do It With You" - and reply personally to all letters. At the moment, they are heavily involved with the arrangements for Barry's only United Kingdom concert this year on Saturday at Blenheim Palace, some

of the 60,000 fans attending will be coming from as far away as Scotland. For such strenuous efforts, Arista and the fan club presented Mollie and Lynn with Barry Awards. "For Bringing Barry closer to us."

Mollie's daughters, aged 19 and 21, and Lynn's daughter, aged 18, and son, aged 14, have got used to living with Manilow mania. "In any case," said Mollie, "neither of us ever felt completely fulfilled by motherhood."

I asked why Barry was different from other heart-throbs, such as Tom Jones or Burt Reynolds. (Mollie and Lynn grimaced at the mention of those two). Lynn recently told Barry himself exactly

why he is so marvellous. "I'll try and explain it to you in the same way that I explained it to Barry," she said. "You see, what people love first about Barry is the music. Then they learn to love the man. His sex appeal is part of that love. With a sex symbol, you think the man is sexy and that's it - it's not a lasting thing. With Barry, it's something so wonderful that his fans need to communicate their feelings to each other. Every weekend, somewhere in this country, you'll find a group of Barry's fans meeting together. I don't think of it as a fan club. I think of it as a family."

Penny Perriek

Cleaning up the house. . . and the dirty phone calls

FIRST PERSON
Beryl Hugill

The sunlit, honeysuckle-bowered Chelsea patio was littered with the leavings of the previous night's meal - green pasta lay congealed in a bright pink tomato sauce. Mounds of washing-up formed a greasy mountain in the kitchen: the hob swam in oil, brimming ashtrays, damp towels and dirty clothes made a trail from bedrooms to bathrooms and, not to put too fine a point on it, the khaki carpets in the hall and dining-room were coloured with the glistening droppings from two fluffy, cat-sized Maltese terriers.

If you thought that I had become some born-again slut in this bijou residence just round the corner from a certain person's home in Flood Street you would be wrong. The certain person would have been pleased to discover that I had priced myself into a new career and that the chaos that greeted me that hot morning was my task as a char to clear up.

The venture had begun six months after my husband's sudden death and my failure to persuade potential employers that I was a dab hand as a press officer and journalist. Nine years out of full-time employment caring for my two sons meant that I was not greeted with alacrity at job interviews. There was nothing else for it - if I were to find the extra loot to pay the bills and to make life bearable by affording a bottle of wine to share among friends, I would become a Mrs Mopp.

What I thought was a carefully worded advertisement was placed in my local paper. It brought a mixed crop of responses. I had made the mistake, I think, of describing myself as energetic and got one half-hearted attempt at a dirty telephone call - did I do anything else [other than the light housework and child-minding which I had offered]? asked the male voice at the end of the telephone. I inquired what he had in mind and quickly added that I could cook. The gentleman wished me luck and rang off.

The advertisement elicited five other promising calls among the many in a variety of foreign accents that assumed I was offering rather than asking for work. One came from a local GP who wanted help with his nine-week-old baby for 25 hours a week, but who felt my request for £1.50 an hour excessive; three mothers who wanted to return to their jobs rang up but they had the same reservations about affording my services; another call came from a man with an Asian accent who grumpily told me he wanted someone to clean up his place. Finally, a brisk call came from the

owner of the Chelsea house who wanted me to help her with moving home, housework and the care of her seven-year-old son for a few weeks until a full-time nanny could be found.

So there I was, with cheerful Charlie from Sidcup, the builder and decorator, to keep me company. Charlie liked to play Radio 2 for background noise and he kept up an amusing and constant conversation with it. I supplied him with cups of tea, but not before I had settled my queasiness at the sight of the morning filth by clearing the kitchen and patio, and completed the first stage of shovelling up the eliminations of the household pets.

However, I was beginning to feel that certain satisfaction that comes with creating order out of chaos and a cup of tea later, shoved all the dirty laundry I could find into the

Parents arrived back from their money-making at around six o'clock and I was free to go home and begin my own round of cooking, cleaning and washing, enlivened by occasional writing of job applications or, more enjoyably, by friends visiting for a meal. By 11, I was ready for bed with that healthy tiredness that comes from physical effort.

One day, a rather dreamy, plump girl from the Welsh border country arrived at the Chelsea house two hours early for her interview for the job of nanny. As I ploughed through the ironing, she made me a cup of tea and told me how she had a degree in English and was looking for work while she waited to reach the age when she would be eligible for a mature student's grant and could start a course in teaching.

As all the telephones in the house were locked ("getting mean in their old age", Charlie remarked), I rang the office from the pretty Victorian pub opposite to let my employers know that nanny had arrived for her interview. After the girl had been interviewed by dad in the local, she was taken on and was to start work the following week.

I saw her briefly only once more. She turned up in the afternoon of her first day having been, she said, to the National Gallery, while I had collected her new charge from school. But, in fact, she had been successfully looking for drugs and by six o'clock in the evening was what is known as "stoned". The search for a nanny began anew.

The same week a young West Indian girl, not long out of school, was employed. She had been hoping to work with mentally handicapped children, but failing that, had found this new job through a previous employer. She was gentle and somewhat shy, so I did not fancy her chances with the wilful seven-year-old - but it did mean my own stint of housework and child-minding was over until I found other work.

As a way of life, charring can be rather solitary. But I did relish the feeling of fitness and energy it gave me. I even lost a few pounds in weight although that may have been more to do with the heatwave. The work is not, however, well remunerated.

Either way, if any reader of *The Times* thinks I have the makings of a superior *femme de ménage* and would be just the person to beautify a home, my experience has taught me to lay down certain conditions of service: no children under the age of 18 and, definitely, very definitely, no animals who have not been trained to control their toilet habits. Where next? Perhaps Flood Street . . .

He expected me to bring him food on a tray

washing machine and went on to the next job of cleaning the two bathrooms and three lavatories with a will.

Bed-making and cleaning the floors usually took me to one and two o'clock when I would hang out the washing and face a pile of ironing until it was time to fetch the other household pet from school. Among a gathering of fashionable Chelsea mums and a sprinkling of au pairs, I waited at the tiny local primary school for my charge. He was obviously used to having his own way over everything, for despite my admittedly mild protestations, his favourite diet on arrival home seemed to be several dishes of ice-cream and jelly if available.

If, later on, he required a meal, he would shout down from the master bedroom where he was settled watching television and expect me to bring food up the stairs on a tray, old-style servant fashion. My attempts to entertain him included two visits to the swimming baths; and a game of ball in the street which brought a threat from an elderly neighbour to fetch the police.

TALKBACK

The young victims

From Mrs Ann Mitchell, Department of Social Administration, University of Edinburgh. In her picture of a group of fathers denied access to their children (Friday Page, August 5) Helen Mason makes no mention of the children's feelings. As a researcher into children's own experiences of separation and divorce, I have found that many children lose touch with their non-custodial parent (whether father or mother) because neither parent makes an effort to help the child keep in touch.

These children are hurt. "I suppose I would like to see him to tell him how I'm getting on, but if he never phones . . . Some children are afraid of upsetting their custodial parent by asking how to contact the other. Children are often more aware of their parents' feelings than their parents are of the children's."

Incidentally, nine out of ten British courts give custody to a mother because the mother asks for custody and the father does not.

Social factor

From Kim Stallwood, British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection, Charing Cross Road, London WC2. John Skoyles is right to be concerned about the horrors which filled Victorian and Edwardian hospitals (Wednesday Page, August 17). But he misses the point. Our health has not improved this century because of animal experiments, but despite them.

The diseases of the nineteenth century were satisfactorily dealt with because of improved social conditions: housing, sanitation, clean water. The diseases of the twentieth century are largely degenerative because of our lifestyles and therefore self-inflicted. No one questions that two of the biggest killers - cancer and heart disease - are in the main a direct result of environmental causes: lifestyle, diet, pollutants and, accordingly, can be directly prevented by social changes.



Joanna Lumley is on holiday in Kashmir

The art of Asian vegetables

GUEST COOK



Madhur Jaffrey

This week, and for the next three, guest cooks will be writing for this space. Madhur Jaffrey, whose television series on Indian cooking was a huge success last autumn, gives us a sneak preview of her forthcoming book. The recipes in *Eastern Vegetarian Cooking* (Jonathan Cape, October 6) come from the near and Middle East as well as from the Indian sub-continent.

If there is an haute cuisine of vegetarian foods, it exists today only in Asia. A restaurant I know in Kyoto, Japan, serves the most delicate savoury custards in tall covered cups. Imbedded inside, the barely jelled gold, one may find a piece of wild mushroom or slivers of lemon rind and spinach. In Hyderabad, India, I have had tiny aubergines stuffed with a herby mixture of ground sesame seeds, tart tamarind pulp and an assortment of hot and sweet seasonings.

There is more, what about the stir-fried asparagus that I had in Hongkong, glistening with drops of the nuttiest sesame oil or the hearty breakfast pancakes from South India that are flecked with mustard seeds? And what about chutneys, that ancient Indian, hot-sweet-sour-salty mélange of nuts, dried fruit, toasted grains and seeds?

Vegetarian food in Asia is as good as it is because communities such as the Hindus, Buddhists and Jains have been honing it and improving it for at least a thousand years. Theoretically, the emphasis among these groups has been on non-violence, piety and health. In actuality, what these vegetarians have been doing is to make their food so irresistibly delicious that nobody can keep their hands off it.

That includes me. I remember a Jain friend in school who sometimes brought boiled potatoes for lunch. That might not sound too promising. But then she peeled them, crumbled them coarsely with her fingers and, as we all drooled, took out a mysterious spice mixture from a packet and proceeded to sprinkle it over the potatoes. We all shared my lunches, but on the days my Jain friend brought her potatoes she tried her best to keep our greedy hands off them.

The vegetarian treasures that can be found in Asian cuisines are such a contrast to the dull and dry dishes that clutter up many of the so-called "health food" restaurants of the West. It was this, I suppose, that prompted me to write my new book on Eastern vegetarian cooking. This book is not just for vegetarians. Here are a few recipes from the book:

Carrots with raisins and dates (serves four)

5 medium-sized onions, peeled
55 g (2 oz) unsalted butter
4 tablespoons raisins
4 tablespoons stored dates, cut in 7 mm (1/4 in) thick slices
1/3 to 1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon sugar

Peel the carrots and slice, slightly diagonally, into 7 mm (1/4 in) thick ovals. Cut the onion in half lengthwise, and then cut the halves crosswise into 7 mm (1/4 in) thick half rings.

Melt the butter in a 20 cm (8 in) frying pan over a medium-low flame. Turn the heat to medium and put in the carrots, onion, raisins and dates. Stir and fry gently for five minutes. Add the salt and sugar. Stir and fry for another four to five minutes or until the carrots are just tender and the onion is soft.

Lentil salad is made all over the Middle East. It can be stored in the refrigerator for several days and is excellent to take on picnics.

Lentil salad
Serves eight
450 g (1 lb) dried whole green lentils
1 teaspoon ground cumin seeds
2 1/2 teaspoons salt
4 spring onions
4 to 4 1/2 tablespoons lemon juice
1/8 to 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
120 ml (4 fl oz) olive oil
30 g (1 oz) finely chopped parsley.

In a large pot (3 to 4 litres/6 to 8 pints) combine the lentils with 1 litre/2 pints of water. Add the cumin, one teaspoon of the salt and bring to the boil. Cover, simmer gently for about 50 minutes or until tender. Remove the cover and let the lentils cool a bit. Slice the spring onions in very fine rounds half way up their green sections. When lukewarm, add the remaining salt, the lemon juice, and black pepper, oil, parsley, and spring onions.

Stir and cool. Serve at room temperature or cold.

may be used to make vegetable pakoris - flowerets of cauliflower, slices of aubergine, slices of peeled potato or sweet potato, onion rings, green beans, slices of green pepper, and even fiery hot red peppers. Pakoris should be eaten while they are hot and crisp or else they turn soggy.

Bhajias - vegetable pakoris
Serves four to six

For the batter
155 g (5 1/2 oz) gram flour
3/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
1/4 teaspoon ground turmeric
1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
3/4 teaspoon coriander

3/4 teaspoon whole ajwain seeds or whole cumin seeds
1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
Vegetable oil for deep frying
Vegetables

1 medium-sized potato, peeled and cut into 3 mm (1/8 in) thick rounds
1 medium-sized onion, peeled and cut into 3 mm (1/8 in) thick rounds
1/2 medium-sized sweet potato, peeled and cut into 3 mm (1/8 in) thick rounds
16 cauliflower flowerets, about 5 cm (2 in) long
16 green beans, trimmed
4 hot Italian peppers (optional)

Sift the gram flour, salt and bicarbonate of soda together into a bowl. Add all the other spices for the batter. Very slowly and gradually pour in 300 ml (1 1/2 pint) water, beating with fork or a wooden spoon as you do so. You should have a smooth batter.

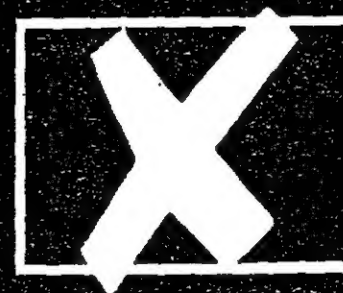
Heat the oil in a wok or other utensil for deep frying over a medium flame. The temperature of the oil should be between 180 and 190/350 to 375°F.

Put the potato slices into the batter. Lift out a handful with your fingers and let any extra batter drip back into the bowl. Now put these slices into the hot oil, as many as the wok will hold in a single layer. Fry slowly, about 7 minutes on each side. When the outside is golden brown and crisp, remove fritters with a slotted spoon and leave to drain on a mesh rack or on kitchen paper.

Separate the onion rings, put them in the batter, and fry them the same way as the potatoes. Do all the vegetables this way, dipping them in the batter, frying them, and then draining them. The hot peppers may be left whole. Ideally, as each batch is fried it should be eaten.

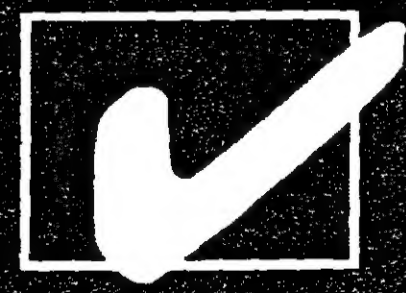
Gram flour (made from chick peas) and **ajwain seeds** (which seem to combine the flavours of anise, oregano and a hint of black pepper) are sold in Indian food stores.

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THE TIMES DIARY

Up in smoke

A weekend foray to Hampshire showed that, not content with grubbing up hedges, farmers are now burning them down. Miles and miles have gone as ill-controlled straw-burning fires swept across broadlands and by-roads, sometimes invading gardens and even threatening houses. Fire brigades have been so hard pressed that reinforcements have had to be summoned from neighbouring counties, to protect agricultural land and buildings which pay no rates. From all parts of the country I see complaints of the sun obliterated by the pall of smoke overhanging the countryside. In a national Burn Straw contest, four-fifths of the competing farmers showed ignorance of the basic National Farmers Union code, not knowing the maximum areas for fires, the required width of firebreaks or the penalties for offensive fires - though those can be up to a £1,000 fine under local by-laws, or two years' imprisonment under the Health and Safety at Work Act.

Clown and gown

We may be going down laughing. Study of the evening classes brochure suggests the recession has brought us to the verge of a resurgence of clowning. A series of courses offered by the City Literary Institute includes "Clowning, Finding a Character" and "Clowning, Building an Act". It also offers a course in juggling and another in acrobatics. Clowning courses are also available at Barrow Hill School, NW8, where clowning and juggling will be taught together. Time could be short.

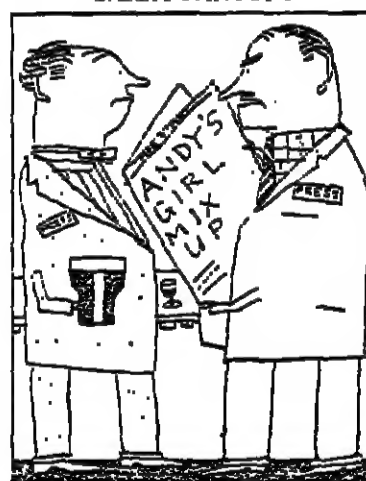
Blank prose

We have just received for review from Blackwell's a volume entitled *Reconstructing Literature*, edited by Professor Laurence Lerner. We only know this from the jacket, because this piece of literature is so much reconstructed that the title page is blank, and so is every page to p26. Then you reach the chapter "The Fallacy of the Abolished Author". The fallacy it may be, but they are doing their best.

Just imagine

Another publisher getting its pages in a twist is Methuen. The entire print run of Tony Coult and Baz Kershaw's *Engineers of the Imagination* is having to be recalled because it was delivered with the pages printed the wrong way round. This is a pity because the book was meant to be sold during the current London International Festival of Theatre. It explains the theatrical effects obtained by Welfare State International in their show *Raising the Titanic*.

BARRY FANTONI



It's about time they got 'Who's Who' illustrated

Bitter twist

The religious book publishers, Lion Publishing, are impossibly listed in the autumn export edition of *The Bookseller* as producing a children's book called *Thank You for a Drink of Milk*. The proof reader should have read St Peter: "Like new-born babes, long for the pure spiritual milk..."

A warning on a pay packet reads: "Note Carefully - If money in packet does not agree with Net Wages, at once inform the Paying Officer before breaking seal" (their emphasis). No, it was not issued by an Irish company.

Precisely

In Mobile, Alabama, preparations are under way for a British Fair in October. The *Mobile Press Register* reports: "The Society for Creative Anachronism will recreate live presentations... in an exhibit called *Kings and Queens of England*." "Relationships will be made in every instance, such as Mobile's Athelstan Club," said Lee McCoy, who is in charge of promotions for the fair. "Athelstan was King of Wessex and grandson of Albert the Great who reigned in the 10th century."

When I announced a competition to design a symbol for the European Currency Unit (ECU), I did not know that someone had already done the job. John Chambers, head of the special projects section of the BBC engineering research department, devised this symbol for the ECU four years ago when compiling a complete list of characters for a teletext system to cover all European languages. His symbol appears, with "temporary" status, in documents of the European Broadcasting Union and International Radio Consultative Committee. It is not my winner though. That I shall announce tomorrow.

PHS

Don't just polish - abolish

by Ralph Harris

Aside from its success against inflation, Mrs Thatcher's government has made disappointing progress in restoring vigour to the economy. A start has been made with denationalization and trade union reform, but state spending has not been cut, local government is as big as ever and little has been done to free the labour market or to move welfare policy from universal provision to help for those in need.

I do not believe that, whatever the International Labour Organization's objections, we could not get rid of wages councils, which set minimum rates for almost three million people, mostly in retailing - 60 per cent of the adult rate at 16, against 20 per cent in Switzerland - and which gravely damage youth employment prospects.

It seems strange that a government which professes to support a market economy should not have taken positive action against impediments that raise unit labour costs (employment protection, national insurance, trade union restrictive practices) that obstruct mobility (rent control, regional development, council house subsidies) or that reduce take-home pay (high taxes on low earnings) to little, if anything, above subsistence.

In most cases, the Government has not changed its policies. It has been diverted from its objectives by legislature and bureaucratic obstruction.

Modern government is appallingly complex and has an insatiable appetite for legislation. In a single recent year, 70 new Acts of Parliament and 2,000 "statutory instruments" were spewed over 6,000

printed pages. Here is a major source of power for civil servants who can blind even the brightest ministers with almost incomprehensible legalistic jargon in which they, as narrow specialists, are always more expert.

Suppose a company had to get approval for amending its articles of association every time it wanted to change a price, alter a product, withdraw a service, borrow money or make any one of hundreds of day-to-day adjustments to its operations. Imagine the staff it would need, the delay and distraction leading to virtual paralysis.

Yet we would all agree that bureaucrats cannot be allowed the range of discretion in dispensing state resources and authority that businessmen enjoy in balancing the interests of customers and shareholders. Because there is no government equivalent to the commercial price-profit system to keep civil servants in check, we have ceaseless legislative amendment and intolerable pressure on the parliamentary timetable to permit tardy adjustment to changing circumstances or a new government's policy.

These necessary restraints are so lethal to flexibility and change that government should be confined to the barest minimum of functions which it has to finance through taxation because a free market cannot provide them. The cumbersome processes of amendment and reforms should therefore take second place to outright repeal of unnecessary, obstructive statutes.

Like the Mikado's Lord High Executioner, the non-party repeal group in the House of Lords has "a little list of society offenders that never would be missed". In addition to the job-destroying wages councils, our targets include the restrictive Shops Act, the antique Truck Acts, the paternalistic licensing laws, such monopolies as the solicitors in conveyancing and opticians in selling spectacles, to say nothing of the Rent Acts that have shrunk the housing market and still impede the mobility of labour.

We are left with the problem of reducing taxes as the golden route to reducing costs throughout the economy and sharpening incentives, especially for the lower paid to work rather than live off social benefits. To search out savings, we should examine every welfare and local government service now provided "free" and ask why most people should not choose and pay through direct fees and insurance rather than indirectly through inflated taxes and rates. The way to help the poor is not to give everyone else free services but to top up low incomes and reduce everyone's taxes.

The aim should be to halve public expenditure and reduce total taxation to the safe limit of 25 per cent of national income. A subordinate aim is to restore politics to a part-time job suitable for gentlemen and lords, that is for unpaid amateurs who have to earn their living in the real world and pay their share of (lower) taxes like the rest of us.

Lord Harris of High Cross is General Director of the Institute of Economic Affairs. He was created a life peer in 1979 and sits on the crossbenches.

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Bernard Levin: the way we live now

For Liberals read lemmings



David Steel, combining Jo Grimond's attractiveness with the toughness of Jeremy Thorpe; and now attacked by the power-haters in his ranks.

entrusted with the job of throwing out of Bradford Labour Party those members judged guilty of lese-majesty and the welkin echoes with the sound of prominent Labour figures reaffirming their commitment to unilateral nuclear disarmament, withdrawal from the EEC, and the nationalization of the means of production, distribution and exchange.

On the morrow of the election, I pointed out - and it required no great skill in divination to do so - that the message number of seats gained by the Alliance should be ignored, and attention concentrated instead on the almost incredible number of votes which they had attracted and which showed to the least discerning eye that the shape of British politics had changed fundamentally. And it is at this precise moment, with the Opposition terminally diseased and the Alliance, if its leaders and members can only keep their heads, perfectly placed to overthrow Labour at the next election and to win the one after, that the Liberals have apparently decided to embrace euthanasia.

Criticism of Mr Steel and his leadership is widespread; some of his members are demanding that he should not be allowed the final control over the contents of the party manifesto that he at present enjoys; others are insisting that the thrust of the party's policy is entirely misplaced, and that they should go to the country next time on a

programme of repairing cracked paving-stones in shopping precincts and saving the whale; others again think that the whole idea of the Alliance was a mistake and that if it had not been for their SDP allies the Liberals would have won the election outright; I am quite sure that the members of the constituency party in Liverpool who insisted on putting up a Liberal against the Alliance's official SDP candidate and thus gave the seat to a member of the Militant Tendency still feel proud of themselves and would do it again if they had the chance. And did I mention that when Mr Steel hinted that he would resign if his manifesto veto was removed, Mr Smith cheerfully declared that any more such hints would result in the party accepting the proffered resignation? No wonder Dr Owen is resigning the idea of a full merger of the two parties who want to be a Siamese twin with a brother who insists on drowning himself?

What is it about parties and politicians of the left, particularly the moderate left, that seems to make most of them instinctively reluctant to seek power, so that however passionately they state their intentions of winning, their actions, again and again, betray them to defeat? The only thing that has kept the Liberal Party afloat since Mr Foot's leadership of the Labour Party, and for that matter Mr McGovern's selection as Presidential candidate by the Democratic Party, is that they

would end in electoral defeat. Their parties must have known that, yet they chose, open-eyed, men with the stamp of inevitable failure upon them. Why?

There is, as a matter of fact, an answer to that question; deep in the psyche of the left there is a belief, in itself by no means ignoble, that power is corrupting, and that the left was put on earth to resist corruption and to purify. In office, they must rub against the inevitable contamination of reality, where bills have to be paid and Christmas comes but once a year; in opposition, they can dream of a world in which water - or rather milk and honey - flows uphill and the sun never ceases to shine.

Which is all very well, but by Mr Healey asked a Labour Conference long ago, before he decided to become just another Hattersley with a ruddier complexion, whose half loaf are you giving away? In the case of Labour, the half loaf of all those who fear modern Conservatism and believe only Labour can give them protection against it; but Labour is finished, however unconscionable a time it takes - a dying, is this the moment for the Liberals to start pricing off?

Mr Grimond could never teach the Liberal Party the time of day; his was far too gentle a character. Mr Thorpe was made of sterner stuff, but the hour had not struck. In Mr Steel the party has a leader who combines the attractiveness of the former with the toughness of the latter (look at the consummate ease with which he diddled the SDP out of anything remotely resembling a fair share of winnable seats), but because he knows what politics is about and how success in it can be achieved, he is now under attack from the power-haters in his ranks, who are half in love with careful death and still convinced that if only they explain to the nation frequently enough how site value taxation works the nation will troop into the polling-booths and vote for it. (Will all those Liberal correspondents who wish to explain it to me kindly put SVT in the top left-hand corner of the envelope so that my secretary can throw their letters away unopened?)

"Be friends, you English fools, be friends: we have French quarrels now, if you could tell how to reckon". Though the Alliance, to succeed, must replace Labour, it is the Tories they will be fighting when they have done so. Mrs Thatcher, having seen Labour quaff the hemlock and not even make a face, is now standing by as the Liberals apparently prepare to swallow what is left in the cup. Surely it wasn't a damaged retina for which she needed surgery; it was a simple inability to believe her eyes.

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The heat is on, but the Sun King stays free

Mexico City. Many people are convinced that when he completed his six years in office last December former Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo had become one of the world's 10 richest men.

Whether this is true or not, the fact is that most Mexicans believe it, an index of the way official corruption is viewed in a country where, according to the figures, the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party has won at least three out of every four votes cast in the last half century of general elections.

"They are all thieves from the president down", is a commonplace heard up and down the country from Mexicans of every social class. Very conscious of the disrepute in which the government of his predecessor was held, the current President, Miguel de la Madrid, came to power on December 1 last year pledging vociferously to set about "the moral renovation" of Mexico.

But Mexicans had heard all this before. Senor Lopez Portillo had made the same promises when he rose to the presidency in 1976.

"We will hold off on the bribes for a couple of months, then it will be back to business as usual", was the word among officers of Mexico City's notoriously corrupt police force at the end of last year. Few Mexicans doubted this would prove

to be the case for corruption generally in their country.

But now, nine months into President de la Madrid's government, that scepticism has turned out to be a little unjustified. Yes, policemen do continue with their time-honoured extortion of money from offenders: at the end of every month the government still provides journalists loyal to its political line with cash-crammed envelopes; and senior officials persist in indulging in lavish dinners at a time when the bulk of the population have been entreated to tighten their belts for the good of their country's economy.

Nevertheless, there have as yet been no major allegations of corruption among officials in the present administration and, more to the point, President de la Madrid has been meeting out harsh retribution to members of Senor Lopez Portillo's government.

Most spectacularly, the popular press having layed long for his blood, a childhood friend of Senor Lopez Portillo's was recently jailed for an alleged multi-million dollar fraud.

Described by Portillo as "an exemplary Mexican", the former head of Mexico's nationalized oil company, Senor Jorge Diaz Serrano, was locked up in a Mexico City jail on July 30 pending trial for the alleged siphoning of US\$34m (about £22m) on the purchase of two oil tankers.

The 62-year-old Diaz Serrano lives in a red-carpeted cell, has a television set and has his food delivered every day by a man who arrives at the gates of his prison in a luxurious grey limousine.

The Mexican Attorney General recently revealed that Senor Diaz Serrano owns at least 15 homes - one with a private runway - in Mexico, the United States and France. Nevertheless, Diaz Serrano insists that he is innocent. In a recent newspaper article written from prison, he said that never had he been able to sympathize so fully with the characters in Kafka's novels.

If President de la Madrid is serious about "moral renovation", it is being whispered, why does he stop there. Why doesn't he bring former President Lopez Portillo to justice too? And not just Lopez Portillo but other of his colleagues in what is generally considered to have been an immensely nepotistic administration.

Lopez Portillo recently left Mexico for one of the many houses he is said to own in Spain in private jet owned by his close friend and mayor of Mexico City under his government, Senor Hank Gonzalez. Senor Gonzalez is known to have a huge multi-million dollar mansion, among a host of other properties, in the United States.

Another old friend of Lopez Portillo's is Mexico City's former

police chief, Colonel Arturo Durazo. Between 1976 and 1982, earning a salary of \$2,300 a month, Colonel Durazo managed to accumulate enough money to purchase a \$14m holiday home on Mexico's Pacific coast - known among local inhabitants as "The Parthenon" - and a palatial residence on the outskirts of the Mexican capital, valued at considerably more.

The jailing of Diaz Serrano provides grounds for asking Lopez Portillo to appear before the law in connexion with US\$100m unaccounted for, wrote Senor Heriberto Castillo a columnist in the political magazine, *Proceso*.

But in a country where the president has as much power, in the words of an American ambassador in the 1970s, as a latter-day Louis XIV, most students of the political scene agree that, however zealous President de la Madrid may try to be in his "moral renovation" crusade, he will spare the man in whose cabinet he served from 1979 to 1982.

Academics who have written on the subject believe that the institution of the presidency is so venerated in Mexico that any punishment dealt out to former President Lopez Portillo would rebound on Senor de la Madrid himself, inevitably undermining his own presidential status.

John Carlin

Jock Bruce-Gardyne

How the devil could be proved right

Although it's academic at this season, I don't think I would go skating with Mr Len Murray. Last week the TUC general secretary's description of his first formal encounter with dreaded Norman Tebbit since the general election was that his team were "still testing the ice", which "badly broken yet". When I went skating I think we tested the ice in the hope that it would hold, not in the hope that it would break. But the contrast between the definition of objectives and the assessment of progress was perhaps symptomatic of the tensions within the TUC about the propriety of supping with the devil in the first place.

On the morrow of the general election I found myself raking over the embers on the BBC World Service with Mr David Barnett, the Godfather of the Labour Party. I speculated that since the trade union movement existed to promote the interests of its members and not to chase the moonbeams of political power, either its present bosses would soon swallow their pride and get down to serious talk with Mr Tebbit, or they would be replaced by those who would. I was sharply informed that I was displaying my ignorance of the union movement. Ah well, as we all know, six weeks is a long time in politics, and two months almost an eternity.

The agenda of last week's talks was judiciously chosen. The TUC has long professed to share, in principle, the Government's enthusiasm for cashless pay, and its distaste for legalized enforcement ought to strike an answering chord. As for the other item - the rate of pay for the Youth Training Scheme - the unions have been given an effective veto, for better or worse, and if the scheme is to get off the ground some meeting of minds will be essential. The more delicate matter of future industrial relations legislation was kept under wraps.

There is, however, at least there may be, more to this than meets the eye. Years ago George Woodcock once commented to me that the unions sometimes found it easier to deal with Tory governments than with Labour, since Labour ministers claimed to know all about the unions, whereas Tory governments did not. But in the case of Norman Tebbit they are confronted with a Tory whose personal experience of the inner workings of British trade unionism exceeds that of many modern Labour leaders.

Indeed I have always suspected that this is precisely why the Labour Party has paid him the compliment of elevating him into an incarnation of evil. They can bear a Tory from the wrong side of the tracks. They can even, at a pinch, sit down with a

turncoat. But for someone who began his political career as a union activist (with Balpa, the pilots' union) to emerge on the Tory front bench is more than flesh and blood can stand. It is almost as if it would be for the Tory party if a Jockey Club steward signed up with the Tribune Group.

Yet it might not be so far-fetched to speculate about the possibility of Mr Tebbit eventually building up the sort of effective working relationship with the barons of the TUC which seems to have largely eluded his Tory predecessors since the late 1950s. I realize that this sounds paradoxical to the point of absurdity. After all, most of those predecessors, up to and including Jim Prior, yearned for a concordat with the unions not so very dissimilar from that of which Labour has frequently boasted - to such very little purpose. Norman Tebbit, on the other hand, has not exactly made a secret of his view that union leaders' notions of national economic management are hardly fit for the kindergarten.

But that is just the point. Slicing up the "national dividend" over whisky at Number 10 may do wonders for union leaders' egos. But they should by now have discovered that any resulting deals do almost as much damage to their authority over the rank and file as they do to the authority of government. Norman Tebbit, I would guess, would not be remotely interested in that sort of conversation (and he would be well advised to approach any bargaining over no-strike agreements in essential services with circumspection). His main message will concern the need to restore the real and effective responsibility to the leadership to those they claim to lead.

A poisoned chalice? A piece of cheek? That, for sure, is how it will be represented by gossips such as Miss Scargill and Jenkins, whose voices may yet prevail next month at Blackpool. For most of those present when the unions gather - certainly most of those to be heard and seen - are liable to be more reflective of the concerns of the 13 moles of Cowley than of the millions who supposedly go to make up their card-votes.

But Norman Tebbit can afford to wait. Sooner or later the TUC chiefs will be represented by gossips such as Miss Scargill and Jenkins, whose voices may yet prevail next month at Blackpool. For most of those present when the unions gather - certainly most of those to be heard and seen - are liable to be more reflective of the concerns of the 13 moles of Cowley than of the millions who supposedly go to make up their card-votes.

The author was Economic Secretary to the Treasury in Mrs Thatcher's last government.

Paul Pickering

Now the East is heading North

As the Year of the Pig reaches the midway point, Britain's Chinese population are already lining up their dragon dancers to usher in the perhaps poignantly named Year of the Rat. For more and more businessmen are leaving what they see as the sinking ship of their native Hongkong which is resigning itself to eventual communist rule. Many are heading for, of all places, Manchester.

Determined that their businesses are not going to benefit the Peking government, they are pouring money into the George Street area of the city. Plans to turn Manchester into a freetown, just like Hongkong, would help complete the process of Enter "Dragon in deepest Lancashire."

Before long the new colonials could start to explore Bolton, Boodle and even Wigan. Annie Walker's Rovers Return will be brimming with happy orientals hurling the odd hatchet into the dartboard, electing Albert Tabb as "Tai Pan" and demanding fish and maw and jellied duck feet from an astonished Bet Lynch the barmaid.

"We even now have Chinese-owned farms in Cheshire cultivating special Cantonese vegetables for our restaurants," said the chairman of Manchester's Chinese Education, Culture and Community Centre, Loree Lee. "They grow winter melons and mustard greens. Last new year we borrowed a giant inflatable pig from Pink Floyd to celebrate; you should have seen it. I don't know what we will do this coming year."

An immense airborne rat may not have the same happy effect as it soars high above Balloon Street. "We have the longest dragon in England," adds the unstoppable Mr Lee. "It was the longest in the world at 185ft until Chinatown in Perth decided to add a foot to theirs for Prince Charles. We also have our own dance troupe, not like Gerrard Street in Soho."

"We are working hard to get the proposed Chinese consulate for Manchester. We have not been affected by the recession like Liverpool. We want a direct flight from Manchester to Hongkong, and there is talk of a freetown. Because of the uncertainty in Hongkong people are buying buildings here."

Hongkong itself could be the ultimate Chinese take-away, spirited around the world to Manchester. "Lots of businesses have started up and there is money coming in," said Douglas Rogers of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. "We now have a Chinese branch in Manchester with Cantonese-speaking staff and opening on Sundays."

A cheerful Arthur Wong of the city's Hongkong Government Office said: "I have heard about the freetown but nothing is officially

confirmed yet. But investment is flowing in. One man recently bought a whole block and intends to turn it into restaurants and laundries."

It seems there is nothing to stand in the way of the city's bright, Chinese-spiced future, especially if it achieves freetown status. Unfortunately not all of Hongkong's exports are happy ones. Many cities with a large Chinese community have problems with drug smuggling, prostitution and the Triad gangs, who send black-clad assassins to hack opponents to pieces.

A crispy duck, tender, I know in Gerrard Street tells me the way to spot a Triad member is by the insouciant manner he tips the tea leaves from his cup into the saucer.



Hongkong today, Bolton tomorrow?

something that will get the right man 10 per cent knocked off the bill. The wrong move can be fatal.

At a recent Soho christening a king prawn that went down too quickly and was brought back was interpreted as an insult from the Peking Boys Triad to the rival K 14 Hongkong Boys Triad. One man was stabbed to death, another badly wounded and the Loon Fung restaurant was wrecked.

Mr Rogers said: "The big difference between our community and London is that this one is straight. That is why the Chinese move here. But Amsterdam police have said many times that so many Triads went there because it had an affluent and peaceful Chinese community."

Mr Lee commented: "We do have conflicts, but we don't have the same kind of difficulties as Gerrard Street." Mr Rogers is confident that undesirable elements will be kept out of the thriving community. "Pigs might fly," said my more cynical Soho friend. But then one already has, a large pink one, high above Manchester.

مكة من الامم



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LOOK WHO'S TALKING

One of the ambitions of the incoming Conservative Government in 1979 was to cut the trade unions down to size. Progress has been made. The first, the easy, part was to expel TUC heavyweights from the ante-chambers of Downing Street. They had become well dug in there through the informal practices of previous Conservative Governments and a succession of "social contracts" promoted by Labour Governments. The objection to the arrangement was two-fold. It gave excessive influence in matters of general policy to figures of dubious representative status; and this influence was given in return for undertakings or understandings on which the principals were not fully capable of delivering. The custom has passed away beyond, it is to be hoped, recall.

The other part of the process was to fend off disruptive trade union militancy on the shop floor. This was to be done by legislative reform, a developing series of measures pressing against the frontiers of trade union immunities and promoting internal trade union reform. However, the ally and principal agent in the reimposition of shop floor discipline, whether co-opted or unco-opted, has turned out to be the weakness of the labour market, one in seven out of work. The effect has been noticeable and in terms of working practices beneficial. To the extent however that it is a product of mass unemployment it is precarious and cannot,

obviously, be welcomed without reservation. Even when cut down, however, the size of the trade union interest remains pretty big. Like other major interests in society it needs good and open channels of communication with the organs of government and vice versa. It is not right that in their relations with government trade union spokesmen should be systematically snubbed or that they should sulk. Now that the election is out of the way there are signs that both sides wish to get back to a more constructive posture.

When Mr Tebbit met Mr Murray and his colleagues last week to discuss certain strictly practical questions about the Youth Training Scheme and the repeal of the Truck Acts, he pronounced them to be more realistic and they him to be more flexible. Out of such civilities are rapprochements made. If the way can be cleared at next month's Trade Union Congress the trade union leadership should soon be in direct communication with ministers again over the full range of relevant matters including the next round of trade union legislation. One way Mr Tebbit and his colleagues could usefully facilitate the process is to counter any suggestion of vindictiveness in tinkering with trade union contributions to Labour party funds by showing an equal and opposite concern about the methods employed for corporate contributions to Conservative party funds.

It is not a question of reviving

a shadow council of state where trade union dignitaries may sound off on anything from relations with Chile to the contents of a wealth tax. It is a question of reviving functional consultation on a range of matters concerning which the trade unions are knowledgeable and their cooperation is desirable. An unwritten agenda would include, apart from the Tebbit legislation and the Youth Training Scheme, apprenticeships, the identification of employment-expansive sectors of the economy, and the insulation of essential services from industrial disputes.

Unruffled harmony in managing affairs of state is not to be expected; but neither is unnecessary discord to be welcomed. Democratic and open government works by promoting the dialogue of competing interests and paying attention to the hubbub. A concerted approach is called for where possible, particularly at this juncture.

Society stands poised to receive the full impact of micro-electronic technology, which does not merely yield new products for new uses but will transform existing processes throughout industry and commerce and in every department of life. The social and institutional changes that this will entail are profound, and the technological revolution will take its character for good or ill from the capacity of society to respond and adjust not least at the workplace. How silly to enter with government and unions not on speaking terms.

GDANSK THREE YEARS ON

The efforts of the banned trade union Solidarity to mark the third anniversary of the Gdansk accords and to protest at the government's refusal to consider discussions with Lech Walesa may not in themselves prove sufficient to compel the regime to effect a conciliation with the Polish people. Yet to preserve morale it is important to persevere, and underground Solidarity leaders, determined to continue their non-violent struggle, have recommended such undramatic measures as the go-slow which began yesterday in the Baltic shipyards.

It is questionable what impact the go-slow can have when the sluggish Polish economy has been in bottom gear since the imposition of martial law in December 1981. Workers on piece rates trying to feed their families at a time of food shortages and sharp price rises will not all be prepared deliberately to reduce their income still further.

Yet this moderate approach, far from being a sign of weakness, serves to confirm the moral superiority of Solidarity over the authorities. This moral strength ensures that the Poles' determination to achieve their rights will survive General Jaruzelski as it survived his predecessors. The ruling Polish United Workers' Party has always found scapegoats on which to blame the shortcomings of the system - consigning former leaders to shameful obscurity - but continues to lose thousands of members every month. The public denigration of Lech Walesa, on the other hand,

merely proves that the regime's earlier claim that he was a "has-been" is as unfounded as its present allegations that he is a millionaire trade-union tycoon.

General Jaruzelski would have us believe that he is marching Poland forward to "normalization" but it seems that most Poles are out of step. The Polish Writers' Union has now been dissolved; the authorities say it was "the spokesman of the anti-state opposition". A new union is to be formed excluding the awkward writers who persist in describing life as they see it, rather than as government officials say it ought to be.

Moscow looks with a jaundiced eye at developments in Poland since martial law was officially ended, but has produced no constructive suggestions for dealing with the situation. Speaking on Soviet television on Saturday, Leonid Zamyatin, head of the Central Committee's International Information Department, claimed that the underground Solidarity leaders were seeking to penetrate and subvert the Polish government - scarcely a vote of confidence in General Jaruzelski.

Coming from a former head of the official news agency TASS with considerable experience in the formulation of Soviet foreign policy, Mr Zamyatin's television comments have more than usual significance. He did not see the Pope's visit as a success for the regime, but claimed that the situation had since become more difficult because "certain aggressive circles in the Polish church" had become more active.

While the "sober-minded" clergy were prepared to cooperate with the government, others made "virulent anti-socialist sermons" and promoted conflict with the authorities.

The Soviet leadership would be delighted if the Polish church could be further divided over its attitude to Solidarity and the regime. Under Cardinal Glemp the church has given less firm guidance than under Wysynski, and the Primate has been criticized on occasion by both laymen and clergy for failing to take a stronger stand in support of Solidarity. Clearly the church cannot deliberately encourage conflict with the regime, but nor can it side with an atheist government against the just aspirations of the Polish people as Mr Zamyatin might wish.

Bishop Tokarczuk has demanded a return to "truth, justice, freedom and peace" as the only way to encourage Poles to work harder. These are certainly the aims of Solidarity but General Jaruzelski has not persuaded the population that he shares them. Nor has he succeeded in winning over the West. A small part of Poland's foreign debt was rescheduled this month by Western bankers, but since half of the \$26,000 million owed depends on Western governments, General Jaruzelski finds himself as before caught between Moscow and Western pressures to be more flexible in responding to the demands of the Polish people. Since they will not change their ideas, he must seek to win changes in Moscow.

PAKISTAN'S PATCHWORK OPPOSITION

Ever since the country was prised from British-ruled India, Pakistan has been hampered by internal quarrels. Two of the issues are basic to the national consensus that is required if the state is to prosper. First is the need for a functioning democracy instead of the disciplines of military rule, however much, in Asian conditions, that may be a temporary necessity. The other is the demand for greater autonomy among the country's component parts. Cutting across these, and perhaps no less divisive for all the piety with which it is urged, is the share to be given to Islamic traditions in the process of government. Since he took power in 1977 General Zia has constantly postponed a promised return to democracy, has played down as best he could the rivalry between the constituent provinces, and has introduced for the first time his own interpretation of Islamic tradition.

Now the quarrels are erupting again with protests against martial law, sometimes in peaceful civil disobedience but frequently turning to sabotage and rioting. The Army has moved in, fire has been exchanged, more than a score of deaths are reported and opposition leaders thought likely to join in the protests have been summarily detained. All this has been inspired by the "Save Pakistan" movement, a rebirth of the now banned Movement for the Restoration of Democracy which gathered eight parties under its wing. Apart from some

incidents reported from Quetta and Lahore, all the troubles are concentrated in Sind. It is because it was the late Mr Bhutto's territory and protest was more easily organised by a movement of which his widow and daughter have been the most active since Mr Bhutto was sentenced to death; or is it a protest by Sindhis against Punjabi dominance?

If one follows the graph of mass protest in so far as it can be charted over the last six years, it does represent a genuine demand for political freedom, even allowing for the personal charisma that Mr Bhutto cultivated during his years in power. After all, Pakistan is as much as neighbouring India influenced by the legacy of British rule. To suffer one after the other a succession of generals dispensing martial law has been crushing to the dignity at least of the urban, professional classes of the country. Yet lines on a graph recording political agitation do not invariably move upwards. Apathy, disappointment, diversion from political interest, can all diminish as well as increase the vigour of protest.

To some extent the Russian move into Afghanistan in December, 1979, changed the scenery of Pakistan's politics. An onerous and unwelcome refugee problem on the frontier presented a problem that General Zia has handled with prudence. In cooperation with the UN he has taken a balanced view of the need and the

possibilities of a solution for Afghanistan. This has increased his stature, though also his feeling that he cannot relinquish his power. He has also been concerned with Pakistan's regional status, first by improving relations with India and lately by sharing in the plans for forming in South Asia a grouping akin to that of Asean in South-East Asia. These moves bore fruit earlier this month in a meeting of foreign ministers of the seven nations involved.

Despite such progress that will be directly beneficial to Pakistan's stability, internal discontent may now be growing again. In dealing with such dissidence General Zia has hitherto been more tolerant than Mr Bhutto ever was. But the cry for democracy is not going to be stilled. It is now resurfacing from discontent at General Zia's timetable for change with no elections until March 1985.

Yet if one looks at the country's political scene, laced with small parties adhering to Islamic principles, or the more secular following attached to Mr Bhutto's legacy (somewhat marred by Mr Bhutto's own record of party management which was far from democratic), it is hard to see the shape of the minimal unity such as democracy requires for its proper working, or such an exact change from General Zia. At the moment Pakistan promises no resolution of its conflicts, either the provincial discontent or the quite valid insistence on democracy.

German role in forward defence

From the Defence Attaché of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany

Sir, Your leader of August 17 expresses a view on forward defence close to the German defence contribution which I think is sound. Forward defence is an essential element of Nato's time-tested strategy. The presence of German and Allied armed forces on the territory of the Federal Republic close to the frontier with the Warsaw Pact enhances the effect of deterrence. The Soviet Union and the other Warsaw Pact countries have to know that from the very first moment of aggression they would have to face not only the Bundeswehr but also other Allied forces. The same applies to sea.

Forward defence also demonstrates the solidarity of the Alliance and serves the vital security interests of all Nato members. I believe this is why all British Governments, quite apart from obligations under the WEU treaty, have maintained BAOR and RAF Germany, which are indeed a most valuable and indispensable part of our common defence. This is also true of the Allied troops stationed in the Federal Republic of Germany.

You rightly point out that the security of the United Kingdom ultimately depends on the strength of Nato's central front. Withdrawing BAOR from forward defence would decisively weaken this cornerstone of common security.

Incidentally, we are not "wasting resources" acquiring an Atlantic capability. If you wish us to concentrate on the defence of the Baltic and North Sea, then this necessarily includes also the adjacent waters as the Nato maritime agreements foresee it.

As far as the German contribution to Western defence is concerned the Federal Republic of Germany is taking its full share. It makes available to Nato well trained and well equipped armed forces of

495,000 servicemen and 700,000 reservists.

In central Europe the Bundeswehr provides 50 per cent of all Nato ground forces and 50 per cent of all Nato air defence. It also supplies 30 per cent of the combat aircraft. In the Baltic 70 per cent of the naval forces and 100 per cent of the naval air forces are German.

This contribution is generally recognized in the Alliance. I therefore think it inappropriate to consider the Federal Republic of Germany as a junior partner in the Alliance. Yours faithfully, KURT FISCHER, Defence Attaché, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, 23 Belgrave Square, Chelsea, SW1, August 22.

The Soviet challenge

From Mr J. C. Greig

Sir, As a constituent and supporter of Matthew Parris I was rather puzzled by his letter of August 20. If he is saying that the effect on the victim would be the same whether he was shot by a British bullet in 1883 or a Soviet bullet in 1983 he is right, but if he is saying that he cannot distinguish between the motives of the British in 1883 and the Soviets in 1983 then he has missed the point of your leading article.

Almost without exception the old British Empire countries are proud of their British connection and maintain voluntary links with their erstwhile rulers. I am afraid that none of us will live long enough to see if the same situation applies to ex-Soviet "controlled" countries - if there will ever be such a thing. Yours faithfully, J. C. GREIG, Ivy Dene, Over Haddon, Bakewell, Derbyshire.

Body and mind

From Dr J. W. Paulley

Sir, The Headmaster of Giggleswick School (August 12) is right to be critical of the selection procedure to medical schools which favours intelligent, conscientious, diligent students. Medicine needs both. Its failure to recognise this over recent years has led indirectly to current disillusion and recourse to "alternative medicine".

I agree with Professor Campbell (August 12) that the dangers of this retreat from orthodoxy are great, both in terms of missed diagnoses, mismanagement, and unscrupulous financial exploitation. Nevertheless, the National Health Service and scientific medicine are also, and the public is becoming increasingly restive because doctors have been educated to rely excessively on investigations and machines for diagnosis and drugs for treatment.

Both are used by the doctor, albeit unconsciously, as barriers between himself and his patient and get in the way of listening at two levels - ie, what the patient is actually saying

and what he is not communicating openly, but has every right to expect a competent doctor to pick up.

Medicine has only itself to blame for the present situation because of its refusal to acknowledge the place of psychiatric medicine in the training of doctors. The best research in this field over fifty years has been equal in scientific rigour to the best in the organic field, but with the advantage that it is often more relevant to the immediate relief of major and minor scourges afflicting humanity. Most medical scientists' reading is so narrow that they are unaware of this.

It is also naive to think, as Professor Campbell seems to do, that a few psychiatrists on the staff of a medical school are a solution to the problem, for few of these in this country are adequately trained in the special skills required in the management of psychosomatic disorders.

Yours faithfully, J. W. PAULLEY, 51 Angelsea Road, Ipswich, Suffolk.

Belton House sale

From Mr Stephen Jones

Sir, Mr Hoos's concern (August 18) for his family's house, Belton, is admirable on both a personal and a public level. The resolution of the dilemma facing Lord Brownlow is obviously a family matter, but one that, through your column, raises again issues that need re-emphasizing. Those of us who work in the art world know that the tragic threat to a great house, complete with its collections, as Belton is, is a constantly recurring danger. Mr Hoos mentions the National Trust, a body that must surely now be more beset with urgent cases than ever before. Many great houses are in danger of sale. Their collections in danger of dispersal.

As has been written before in your columns, the loss when an historic collection is sold up is far greater than the sum of the individual works that vanish from their original place. A house and its collections are complete as a whole.

These increasing dangers can largely be traced to the continuing refusal of governments to consider again the problems of death duties, VAT and other financial blights, and sometimes seems almost with the destruction of great collections in mind. Mr Hoos says that the nation deserves Belton; that the people of Britain deserve it is true. But the Government, as indeed their predecessors, do not.

If the Prime Minister's pride in the loan of the Coudal silver is as great as the family's pride in that loan, then the should apply herself directly to considering how her Government can immediately stem the rising tide of country house

sales, the repeated crises that beset the museum world, whenever a major work appears in the auction rooms to find a new roof or other essential repairs to the structure of a great house.

They order these things better in America, where the private enterprise so greatly approved by Mrs Thatcher finds real incentives to support the arts, in terms of tax concessions and other intelligent legislative structures. If Belton is sold, its collections broken up, it will be no one's fault except that of successive blind or indifferent governments.

If Belton is sold it will indeed be the opinion of many that the Prime Minister has been no true friend to the Brownlows. Yours faithfully, STEPHEN JONES, 12 Ladbroke Mews, W11, August 18.

Chatsworth drawings

From Professor Michael Kitson

Sir, You report (August 17) that the Duke of Devonshire's trust is negotiating to sell 74 Old Master drawings from Chatsworth direct to the British Museum to prevent them going abroad. Both the Duke and the Museum are to be congratulated. If money has to be raised to preserve the fabric of Chatsworth and no other assets are available, this is surely the most praiseworthy means of going about it. If only more owners of historic houses and collections were as public spirited.

Yours faithfully, MICHAEL KITSON, Courtauld Institute of Art, 20 Portman Square, W1.

Soviet chess tactics

From the President of the Fédération Internationale des Echecs

Sir, May I refer to the report of your Moscow Correspondent (August 10) on Gary Kasparov's loss of his candidates' semifinal match against Victor Korchnoi by default? The report quoted a statement of the USSR Chess Federation that I "had acted unlawfully" and since the USSR Chess Federation has alleged that in a vicious worldwide campaign in the past two months, using the facilities of Soviet embassies and the formidable Soviet propaganda apparatus, may I beg the courtesy of your columns to inform your readers of the facts?

I had awarded on June 1 the organization of the Kasparov-Korchnoi candidates' semifinal match to the United States Chess Federation and that of the Ribli-Smyslov match to the United Arab Emirates Chess Association. The Americans had offered, for the match to be held in Pasadena, California, much better

terms than had ever been obtained for a candidates' semifinal match, and the UAE had made the only offer conforming with Fide (Fédération Internationale des Echecs) regulations to organize the Ribli-Smyslov match in Abu Dhabi. The USSR Chess Federation objected, however, claiming that I had "violated regulations" in making the decisions.

In an attempt to avert a double forfeit by the Soviet players a meeting of Fide Executive Council was convened in late July. After a two-day meeting in Madrid the council ruled by a majority of eight votes that Fide regulations empowered Fide President to decide the venues of Pasadena and Abu Dhabi. The USSR Chess Federation, however, has turned its back on this ruling and continues to allege that I broke Fide regulations, trusting, no doubt, that the lie will gain credence by repetition.

That the executive council members who affirmed the validity of my presidential decisions included

Dilemmas facing the planners

From Professor Gordon E. Cherry

Sir, Mr Michael Cross (August 17) in commenting on your leader of August 8, calls for policy analysis to identify new options in strategic land planning. This may sound attractive, but the dilemmas facing contemporary planning are such as to pose considerable difficulties on the exercise.

We have had periods in the past when coherent plans of economic and social purpose, reflected in "broad brush" master plans, carried a consensus of professional, political and community support. Abercrombie's plans for London, Clydeside and the West Midlands in the 1940s, and regional strategies based on corridors of growth, as in the South-east in the 1960s, were cases in point.

But we have no certainties about preferred directions of development today. Hence we provide for the best (or worst?) of all worlds in both subsidizing inner-city renewal and encouraging dispersal where viable. Meanwhile we continue to permit suburban expansion through further green belt incursions. As for regional policies, they scarcely exist.

It is not easy to say whether we are making a mess of things or not. A consistently applied land planning strategy, with clear statements as to what development is to be permitted, where, and when, may be impressive to a tidy mind. But in today's circumstances it will be necessary to be more pragmatic, ducking and weaving through the consequences of profound social, economic and technological change.

It is futile to pretend to be able to impose a spatial pattern on cities, which are inherently complex and dynamic, when we have neither the

sophistication of understanding them, nor the operational ability, nor the political will to continue the exercise for very long.

A judicious blend of market forces and a light, selective hand on the tiller of state direction is likely to prove the best way forward. This does mean, however, that we are open to the charge of planning without purpose. We have a battery of regulatory controls, but in the absence of any scientific right or wrong in forms of land planning, we are buffeted by sectional interests and conflicting public opinion in participation exercises. This only encourages the anti-planners to deride our present planning system and seek to emasculate it.

The real dilemma is that at a time of understandable professional uncertainty, there is political uncertainty too. While the market economists and the centralists both have their polarized views about land planning and the role of the state, those occupying the ideological middle ground have still to work out a speedy, decisive, yet fair planning system which harmonizes and coordinates the interests of the private and public sectors.

At the moment we have two sectors that glare at each other. Instead, without seeking to depoliticize the system (because one can't), we need real dialogue and concerted action - the best context for the new approach to land planning you are calling for.

Yours faithfully, G. E. CHERRY, Quaker Road, 66 Meriden Road, Hampton-in-Arden, Solihull, West Midlands, August 17.

CDC in Philippines

From Mr Tom Clarke, MP for Monklands West (Labour)

Sir, Several times since I was elected to Parliament in June of last year I have tried to focus the Government's attention on human rights in the Philippines.

Indeed, in my adjournment debate in January, Timothy Raison, Minister for Overseas Development (in his first speech in that role) was given an excellent opportunity to defend ordinary standards of human decency; instead, he displayed appalling complacency.

Even after the unhealthy events of last weekend, the Government continues with its involvement in the oil palm project in Mindanao, in spite of clear evidence of the presence of the notorious Lost Command.

Cold front

From Mr D. P. S. Graham

Sir, In common with *The Times* and a few other "responsible" newspapers, Independent Television shows charts of weather expected each day in every area of our small islands. When the BBC's excellent symbols for predicted sunshine, rain, temperature and pollen counts are suspended over the same regions the Republic of Ireland is always left blank. Why?

Reith's hopeful but fatuously unrealistic motto, "Nation shall speak peace unto nation", remains on a wall of Broadcasting House, its irony unnoticed. Ever since our planet was cocooned in micro-waves nations have used them to speak enmity, hate and discord to nations.

The BBC remains the universally acknowledged leader of the world's Sientors because of the truth and objectivity of its news reports. Who dares that its weather forecasts should show political discrimination? Why is the policy maintained while British and Irish governments continue to try - with so little success - to improve climates of opinion affecting the Ulster Border so long and tragically disputed?

Yours very truly, PATRICK GRAHAM, 66 Belsize Park Gardens, Hampstead, NW3.

Saving youth hostels

From Mr James W. Godfrey

Sir, I endorse Councilor Preddy's letter (August 19) regarding the survival of youth hostels. As a keen senior life member I am extremely concerned about their future for, like all things, recession and rising costs have hit the YHA badly.

One aspect that might assist in the dropping of the VAT charge on a great number of hostels. Another aspect might be financial assistance from the local authority in whose domain the ailing hostel is situated. This has sometimes happened in times past. My experience is that

people generally do not like to see a hostel close in their locality. It brings life to the scene.

There was a time when the more prosperous hostels could subsidize the poorer hostels. This is no longer the case. All are struggling. And we should also remember that youth hostels are an intricate part of tourism in the country, deserving our fullest support.

Yours faithfully, JAMES W. GODFREY, 3 Fairview Cottages, Virginia Water, Surrey, August 19.

Missing the point

From Mr G. A. K. Robinson

Sir, I was away on holiday in Wales when Mr Yorke wrote whatever he did in the absence of punctuation on signs and I am sorry I missed his letter (August 9). Literacy, particularly public literacy, is a subject dear to my heart.

Whilst away I encountered, as I have done occasionally before, that irritating sign "Road liable to flooding". Surely this, Sir, is an example of public literacy? "Road liable to be flooded"? "Road prone to flooding", would all be acceptable, why then does the Department of Transport (or whoever) choose to offend us with the incorrect one?

I need hardly add that there was no water visible anywhere and "Road liable to melting" would have been more appropriate.

Yours faithfully, G. A. K. ROBINSON, Penelanda, 18 Royal Park, Clifton, Bristol.

COURT AND SOCIAL

SOCIAL NEWS

The Duke of Edinburgh is to be the first patron of the Royal Corps of Naval Constructors.

The Prince of Wales, president, the Royal Jubilee Trusts, will preside at a meeting of the administrative council at 8 Buckingham Street, WC2, on November 29.

The Duke of Edinburgh, patron and trustee, will attend receptions for young people who have reached the gold standard in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award at St James's Palace on November 30.

The Queen and the Duke of

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J. W. Partridge and Miss E. F. Blackmore

The engagement is announced between Bill, only son of Mr and Mrs Bryan Partridge, of Hastings, Sussex, and Kate, elder daughter of Mr Courtenay and Lady Pamela Blackmore, of Blackheath, London.

Mr M. H. Cave and Mrs D. L. Bedford

The engagement is announced between Michael Hugh Cave, of Upper Wess, near Basingstoke, Hampshire, and Diana Louise Bedford, widow of M. A. (Tony) Bedford, of Old Birkfold, Farnham, West Sussex.

Mr A. T. Leisk and Miss E. S. Staples

The engagement is announced between Alexander Thomas, son of Mr John Leisk, of Susan, young daughter of Mr and Mrs R. E. Staples, of Cobham, Surrey.

Mr D. M. Peppitt and Miss E. H. H. Kendall

The engagement is announced between Stephen, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Hugh Peppitt, of Wimbledon, London, and Karen, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Kendall, of St John's Wood, London.

Mr J. R. C. Perkins and Miss C. M. St. Aubyn-Sayer

The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs R. M. Perkins, of Sonning, and Catherine, daughter of Captain and Mrs J. H. St. Aubyn-Sayer, of Charnminster.

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Tower Bridge and tenement take awards

Tower Bridge, London, and a Glasgow tenement are among five historic buildings to receive the British Tourist Authority's heritage awards, it was announced yesterday.

The awards are for restoration or conversion of historic properties open to the public.

Tower Bridge has attracted more than half a million visitors since its high-level walkways and machinery rooms were opened as a tourist attraction last year.

At the other end of the scale, the Tenement House, Glasgow, retains the authentic atmosphere of a typical small early twentieth-century home in the Scottish city, with most of the original fittings and belongings of the family who lived there for 50 years.

Other awards go to Bodysgallen, an historic house converted into a hotel near Llandudno, North Wales; Newby Hall and Gardens, North Yorkshire; and the Ulster-American Folk Park, near Omagh, Northern Ireland.

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Reprieve for Victorian church

By Clifford Longley
Religious Affairs
Correspondent

Conservationists have secured a last-minute reprieve for a notable Victorian church in Bristol which was already in the hands of demolition contractors.

The issues raised by the case have again drawn attention to the anomalies surrounding the preservation of notable Non-conformist church buildings, and may point towards a solution.

Save, the organization concerned with the survival of the nation's architectural heritage, had talks with the trustees of the United Reformed Church in Clifton Down, Bristol, and has undertaken to find a suitable alternative use for the building.

The church trustees have, in turn, agreed not to proceed with demolition.

Mr Marcus Binney, who negotiated with the trustees on Save's behalf, said he envisaged an open-plan office type of use. The church would keep a chapel on the site. The buildings were completed in 1868 to a design by Charles Hansom.

Although it is a listed building, the trustees were allowed, under the so-called ecclesiastical exemption, to order demolition without the city planning officer being able to intervene. Conservationists have been campaigning for the ending of ecclesiastical exemption from normal listed building controls, particularly in the case of non-Anglican churches.

In the Church of England state aid is available through the Redundant Churches Fund to maintain unwanted churches of historic and architectural interest, and the church also has a system of controls, parallel to the controls over secular buildings. The Free Church and the Roman Catholic Church receive no such aid, and have no similar controls.

He envisaged a system to preserve redundant Free Church buildings which would be funded partly by Government, partly by the local community, and partly by the church concerned.

On all sides the problem is seen as one likely to occur more often in the future. Most Nonconformist or Roman Catholic buildings likely to become redundant and therefore candidates for demolition are Victorian, and in urban areas that are in need of architectural, if not spiritual, uplift.

The church is often the one building of character in that locality. They are also approaching the end of their useful life as structures, however, and changes in population have usually reduced the size of congregation to the point where it is scarcely viable.

At the same time, fashion in town planning has changed from preferring wholesale redevelopment of such areas, towards rehabilitation of the area with the buildings intact.

Several experiences in recent years have brought home to the non-Anglican denominations that considerable local unpopularity can be generated if they try to solve the problem of surplus buildings by demolition. The most recent cause célèbre was St Francis Xavier's church in Liverpool, part of which the Roman Catholic authorities wished to demolish but which was saved by public outcry.

The Department of the Environment is expected to publish a consultative document on the preservation of redundant ecclesiastical buildings later this year.

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OBITUARY

MR WILLIAM TAMBLIN

Versatile aircraft designer

Mr W. A. Tamblin OBE, an aircraft designer who made significant contributions during the volatile wartime and post-war eras, died on August 15. He was 80.

Tamblin trained as a naval architect at Royston, in Fife, before entering the aircraft industry. He worked in several companies, including Blackburn Aircraft and Handley Page, before joining De Havilland in 1936. His experience of metal construction was of considerable help to De Havilland in designing their first all-metal airliner the DH95 Flamingo under Mr R. E. Bishop.

During the Second World War Tamblin was put in charge of the DH98 Mosquito wing design, and was later responsible for the design of a large number of Mosquito developments. This included the modification of this versatile aircraft, in particular to produce a type carrying a 6-ft gun and another carrying a 4,000lb bomb. Later he developed a naval version with a folding wooden wing and a rear hook.

After the war he was responsible for the structural design of the DH106 Comet wing, and in 1951 he took over the design of the DH114 Heron light transport aircraft.

Later in 1951 he was appointed to the airspeed division of De Havilland at Chesham, as chief designer, responsible for the design of a large number of DH military types and projects, including development of the Venom fighter and the DH110 aircraft which he modified extensively for naval application, and which became known as the Sea Vixen.

At the end of the 1950s he returned to Hatfield to take up work on the 125 business jet and on several design projects, including early studies for a jet feederliner.

He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

DR F. H. KROCH

Dr Falk Heinz Kroch, CBE, who died in London on August 22, was the founder of Lankro Chemicals Ltd and its chairman from 1937 to 1971.

He was born in Berlin in 1904 and, after education at Freiburg and Berlin universities, went into the chemicals industry. In 1937 he left Germany as a refugee from Nazism and came to Britain. In the same year he established Lankro Chemicals at Epsom, the suburb of Manchester, with a handful of employees.

Lankro grew until in 1968, when it became a public company, it had more than 800 employees. In 1977, when it was bought by Diamond Shamrock, an American company, it had 1,250.

Much of its activity was devoted to producing chemicals for the leather trade, and in 1966-67 Kroch was president of the Society of Leather Technologists. He also gave help to the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology. He was appointed CBE in 1973.

MR L. C. WILCHER

A correspondent writes: Lewis Wilcher, whose death you briefly announced on July 16, succeeded John Fothill as Principal of the Gordon Memorial College, Khartoum in 1947, and guided the institution through its growth to become first the University College of Khartoum and later the University of Khartoum when Sudan attained independence.

He had a difficult task, for the Arabic-speaking northern Sudan, where he became the vast majority of the students were distinctly pro-Arab in their political sympathies, and many of them looked to Egypt rather than to Great Britain for intellectual guidance and inspiration. This Australian Rhodes Scholar made it plain that the college was quite distinct from the British authorities who were running the country, when there were student demonstrations, these were invariably directed against the Government, and never against the University Senate or staff.

Apart from cricket and football, Lewis' great love was buildings, and he was responsible for the erection of a handsome set of Moorish-Gothic teaching blocks and hostel on the university's fine site beside the Blue Nile. Subsequently, and using the same team of architects, he saw to the erection of an equally handsome set of buildings in Oxford, where he served as Warden of Queen Elizabeth House from 1956 to 1968. Aided by his wife Vere, nee Wiley, Wilcher attached great importance

THE ARTS

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

Estrangement transformed

The Soul of a Jew

Music Hall

Sartre once defined anti-Semitism as a ready-made persona adopted by people with no identity of their own. If so, this helps to explain the persistence of anti-Semitism inside the ghetto itself, and in particular the case of the 23-year-old philosopher, Otto Weininger, Hitler's favourite Jew, who published his pro-Aryan credo in 1903 and then shot himself in the house where Beethoven had died.

From this private event Yehoshua Sobol's play embarks on a masterly analysis of the public and familiar aspects of the Jewish identity crisis in turn-of-the-century Vienna, split between the rival utopias of an all-Aryan Austria and Herzl's Zion. Old Austrian liberalism, the new Jewish science of psychoanalysis, and a father who brought Otto up to be more German than the Germans, all push him along the politico-Oedipal path towards his final act.

The Soul of a Jew is a memory play showing Otto reliving his own past during the long night before he pulls the trigger. But the room itself is always there, a musty abandoned den with phantoms passing through. Adrian Vaux's mirrored doors, instead of flashbacks memory is

located in the psychological present and the room corresponds to Otto's idea of his own mind as a shattered house with frantic activity going on behind the locked doors.

What unfolds there is the story of his estrangement from mankind. He starts with good friends: a liberal Aryan teacher, a devoted fellow student, a loving girl. To varying degrees they too are suffering from living amidst "the crumbling foundations of liberal Austria", but they are ready to compromise or emigrate; where for Otto the only strength lies in uncompromising Jewish self-determination and the conviction that Zionism will be wrecked on the diaspora. They are ordinary people; he is a genius or a zero.

From an outside viewpoint he is in the romantic tradition of tortured young heroes whose alienation and superior intelligence entitle them to give their friends a hard time. What saves Otto is partly the fact that he is intellectually formidable - not only in anti-Semitic and anti-feminist argument, but also in tackling Freud and dissecting his prose style as the great man lies supine on the couch. The other redeeming factor is that of Otto's double with whom he plays hide-and-seek behind the mirrors before confronting his other self as that despised creature, a woman.

From his anti-feminist obsession and the view of existence as a perpetual struggle, Otto could be a creation of Strindberg, who in fact arrives in person in the second act.

In its heightened, emotional and fluid use of dramatic time the play too is full of Strindbergian echoes which are powerfully projected in Gedalia Besser's Hebrew-language production for the Herta and Paul Amirson Theatre. The show turns on a sixpence between high passion and grotesque comedy and this particularly in the transformation of images.

Leora Rivlin delivers a virtuoso deathblow to the Jewish patriarch, pouring out an unstoppable avalanche of martyred complaints through a fixed, dazzling smile. But the most electrifying spectacle is the joint creation of Doron Tavori and Tehiya Danon as the double. Tavori crouched romantically over Beethoven's keyboard and confronting the world in dignified solitude also has the capacity to collapse into writhing buffoonery when in contact with other people; a pitiless, exact portrait of the emotionally maimed intellectual. Danon, a mocking mirror image with a life of her own, finally emerges as a cabaret master of ceremonies who scoops him up into a last waltz, a still-banned angle of death.

Irving Wardle



Pitilessly exact: Doron Tavori with Leora Rivlin

Hilary Finch meets Anthony Rolfe Johnson, who repeats his acclaimed Aschenbach, in Britten's *Death in Venice*, at the King's Theatre on Friday

The climax of an opera-singer's decade

The first week at Edinburgh ends with Scottish Opera's co-production with Le Grand Théâtre, Geneva, of Britten's last opera, *Death in Venice*. For Anthony Rolfe Johnson his Gustav von Aschenbach, highly acclaimed in Geneva in May, has been a watershed in his career. Yet only two years ago he almost turned it down, seeing the role as very much an end-of-career part.

"I had Peter Pears in mind, of course. He was 63 when he did it after all. But, while Roderick Brydon and Francois Rochaix were in Geneva two years ago, working with the designer Jean-Claude Marell on *The Turn of the Screw*, they happened to see me, in the other theatre, playing the Innocent in *Boris*. Francois apparently said to Roderick 'I saw Aschenbach last night' - and, when he returned, he asked them what they'd like to do next, they said *Death in Venice* with me."

Inside the score of *Death in Venice* is the warning that all those involved in a production of the opera should acquaint themselves with the recording, made under Britten's supervision. But the condition of working in Geneva was that Rolfe Johnson should start from scratch, without seeing or listening to any previous performances. "Of course, Peter is always there. I love him dearly and in everything I ever do of Britten's I always hear that



Rolfe Johnson: evolving his own persona

sound in my ears. What I do, I do for him." But Rolfe Johnson found Aschenbach evolving into a persona that was to become very much his own.

"The biggest danger of the whole piece is to become too involved in the homosexual connotations. It is a great personal tragedy, of any man, any artist who succumbs to passion to the point of destruction - and to have done so because of his very integrity. The part is full of poignant humour, as Aschenbach, the notes, reads them back, reflects and draws conclusions, all the time examining things with his reason. But he hasn't taken account of the fact that he's

capable of the sensual. That enters, as it always does, by the back door - and he's totally unprepared for the shock."

"Does beauty lead to wisdom, Phaedrus? Yes, but through the senses. Can poets take this way, then - for senses lead to passion?" The words come from Aschenbach near the very end of the opera. Did Rolfe Johnson feel that his fate was predestined, that the dilemma he faced was for the artist, unavoidable and insuperable? "I feel that, because Aschenbach is an artist, he's an experimenter, and his experimenting cuts out any possible cerebral escape route he might have followed. The more I played it, the more I felt conscious of the presence of the Traveller - a projection of Aschenbach's inner self - blocking every escape. And then the gods have a hand in it too: glassblower, strawberry seller, hotel porter and manager - all seemed to me minor deities, pushing me forward, yet without my being able, even wanting, to do anything about it."

"I was interested, too, in the comment made by *The Times* critic [Greville Rotham, May 24] about my not seeming old enough. I feel that if a person is lively in his mind, he doesn't have to be old physically. And in fact I had in mind someone I knew who went through a similar infatuation late in life, and he seemed to become younger all the time. Aschen-

bach, I feel, relaxes in the warmth of Venice, becomes more expansive, then, when the fall comes, it's a hundred times more devastating."

"In this opera, the responsibility is entirely yours. It taught me to be in command as an actor in a way I'd never experienced before. It's funny, I never used to think of myself primarily as an opera singer. I'm only in my tenth year professionally, as I started late, so I've always had tremendous anxieties about being sure enough of myself to do the music and the theatre justice. *Orfeo* with David Freeman was a great revelation - but *Death in Venice* was the real opener, a focusing of everything in my musical life up till now."

Rolfe Johnson feels confident that this new sense of focusing and balance will continue: later this year in Britten's *Rape of Lucretia* at ENO ("I still think of that as my opera house"), and then three big landmarks. He sings Pelléas at La Monnaie next January, set up after a concert performance there of Britten's *Les Illuminations*. Then comes his debut at La Scala in 1984 as Lucio Silla; and in 1985 his Covent Garden debut in *Somerset*.

Meanwhile, the concert repertoire runs along like a ground bass. He has just been working on a new recital record under the auspices of the Songmakers Almanack, of which he was a founder member.

Zemlinsky bill

King's Theatre

Not the least of the things Schoenberg was right about was the stature of his teacher, brother-in-law and friend, Alexander Zemlinsky. It was on the occasion of the latter's fiftieth birthday that Schoenberg predicted a future audience for him, but it took another 50 years, until the centenary celebrations of 1971, for Zemlinsky to be set on the road of reevaluation.

That course has led him now to the heady eminence of having six works performed at this Edinburgh Festival, beginning on Monday with the double bill of his Oscar Wilde operas discussed earlier this year by Stephen Pettitt from Germany.

In bringing these productions to Edinburgh, the Hamburg State Opera has proved again that Zemlinsky was a composer with his own style and his own way of doing things. He was an authentic artist, and it is his authenticity that makes *The Dwarf*, the later of these two operas, a keenly effective piece in spite of all its melodrama and musical excess.

Of course, the score runs over with echoes of late Mahler, early Schoenberg and any Strauss, but is also profoundly Zemlinskian: the nearness to the erotic, luxuriant but fundamentally lonely *Lyric Symphony* is clear, as is the inimitability of Zemlinsky's melodic style.

The opera is a fairytale inflated into a highly-charged emotional drama lasting well

over an hour, but the underlying experience is one too close to Zemlinsky to be dismissed as historicism. He was the dwarf, which is why it is regrettable that the Hamburg production should be reverting to the original Wilde title of *The Birthday of the Infanta*.

Deeply conscious of his smallness, and of a physiognomy so idiosyncratically bird-like it can be recognized even in a terrible portrait by Schoenberg that hangs now in Edinburgh's "Vienna 1900" exhibition, Zemlinsky put his heart into the dwarf who falls in love with his child princess, then dies of grief when he bumps into a mirror and sees his monstrous appearance for the first time.

The dwarf's music is at once ardent and naive, where that for the princess is all pretty-pretty, and totally artificial. The dwarf's problem is how to exist in her world; it was Zemlinsky's problem, too, and it is incapable of solution.

The other opera, *A Florentine Tragedy*, is greatly less interesting, though again there is an element of autobiography. Kenneth Riegel, so desperately touching as the dwarf, is in the earlier opera a lover kept hanging in the balance by a jealous husband, but as Zemlinsky found himself left in embarrassing isolation after Schoenberg and most of the rest of their circle had departed for the realms of atonality, *The Dwarf*, though when conducted as exultantly as it is here, by Gerd Albrecht, shows he won through in the end. It can be seen again, and heard on Radio 3, tonight.

Paul Griffiths

Television

Pain made public

At the age of eight, Gaynor Fairbrother fell into a fire; her mother wanted to wipe the ashes from her cheeks and then she realized that they were a part of her daughter's face. The horror of that accident was visible in *I'm Gaynor - I'm Me!* (Thames), just as it had been in Gaynor's first reaction to the sight of herself: "It can't be me..." Now, 23 years later and after some 20 operations, what looked like a Halloween mask trampled underfoot has been transformed into a recognizable although still ravaged and distorted face.

It is remarkable how a person's visage determines the manner in which he or she is treated - it is a primitive reaction, perhaps related to the idea of the face as an image of the soul, and therefore most difficult to transcend. The spectacle of Gaynor trying to live normally in a world which turned away from her was affecting, sometimes even too painful to watch. Her life has been one long infliction. The affection of those around her must have helped to sustain her - "I don't see a spoiled face", one friend said, "I just see Gaynor" - and in fact the colleagues at her factory raised

money for further elaborate plastic surgery.

The programme followed her through four years of that surgery, as she slowly and most painfully got rid of "the thing that was not actually me". But it was still difficult to see the justification for revealing that experience to a television audience. This was essentially an exercise in sensationalism, only barely disguised by the apparent "objectivity" of a documentary. This may seem a harsh judgment, but how else is the public exposure of an entirely private matter to be described?

Even though Gaynor agreed to the making of the programme, and grew to trust those involved in it, she was still being exploited in a contemporary equivalent of the Victorian travelling fair. The audience's responses of sympathy or pity are inappropriate where they are not destructive, since they cannot effectively be employed to help. It was as if we were watching someone sinking under water and could do nothing to raise her up: what, in those circumstances, is the point of displaying one person's suffering?

Peter Ackroyd

Promenade Concert

LPO/Tennstedt

Albert Hall/Radio 3

Listening to Mahler's Sixth Symphony must be like experiencing one of those moments when death is imminently threatening, and all life's experiences are supposed to flash before you in one dreadful instant. But if in real life there is a chance of redemption that is not so in Mahler's symphony, where the final outcome can only be annihilation.

Klaus Tennstedt, making his first appearance at the Proms, elicited a suitably garish reading from the London Philharmonic Orchestra, making this nightmare all the more ghastly through his extreme tempos and no less by his careful sense of orchestral balance and rubato. It was a dramatic performance, yet it was not of the theatre. Rather Tennstedt took the honest man's view and faced the universal reality of the work head-on.

Quite sensibly, he adhered to Erwin Ratz's 1963 edition of the score, in which Mahler's revisions are incorporated but the two central movements revert to the sequence that the composer first envisaged, with the Scherzo placed before the Andante moderato. (After changing his mind, Mahler subsequently changed it back again, according to Ratz.)

Both movements can be seen as retrospective views of an

earlier, happier life, although the mood of the onlooker is very different in each. On the one hand, the Andante moderato is all innocence, blooming into a sweetly sad romantic passion that here attained a Schubert-like quality, albeit more heavily sentimentalized, despite the slightly lumpy phrasing of the horns. On the other hand, the Scherzo ought to feel malicious. The overly sardonic outer sections are easy enough to bring off in this way. Rather more elusive is the Trio, where like a Punch and Judy show the apparent innocuousness lies only on the surface. Tennstedt began with the right threatening atmosphere, but some momentum, and hence bite, was lost towards the end.

Tension was never allowed to slacken however in the first and last movements. The sinister rhythms of the percussion (who throughout did excellent work) seemed to colour every mood. Hence the brass, celebrating the gift of life, would be reminded brusquely of the curse of dying; or the cowbells, placed high in the gallery and thereby surrounded by a ghostly resonance, would temper nostalgia with the thought that what has gone can never be recovered. And all the while the sinking regression from major to minor would push the hopelessness of it all firmly home, as with deadly precision did the awesome hammer blows in the finale.

Stephen Pettitt

Three Choirs Festival

RPO/Sanders

Gloucester Cathedral

The sea is never very far from the ears of a British composer, and Paul Patterson is no exception. For his Gloucester Three Choirs Festival commission he composed not a sea symphony but a *Mass of the Sea*, which was given its first performance on Monday night by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and Festival Chorus directed by the cathedral organist and festival conductor John Sanders.

With Tim Ross Price, his collaborator on the 1981 *Voices of Sleep*, Patterson has devised a clever, eloquent and for the most part convincing integration of sea images ("water wrapped eternally") and the text of the Mass: the Kyrie surfaces out of the chaos untraced of solo, horn and gradually focusing wide-set strings; the Gloria rejoices at the naming of the lord; the Sanctus stands in awe of the bow in the sky; the Agnus Dei links, figuratively, to Christ, the waters of salvation and the apocalyptic vision of a new heaven and a new earth.

The musical language is clear, vivid and coherent; the first three notes of the plainsong "Ave Maris Stella" hold the piece together in often powerful transformations, and its dra-

matic structure is equally surely paced.

Despite the strongly Brittenesque choral writing, with its fractured and overlapping rhythms, Mr Patterson lacks a similar ability to write in such a way that does not either oversimplistically underscore the words or prevent them from being heard at all. This was the work's obvious weakness; but in both overall conception and realization its internal energy fired the resources of orchestra, chorus and the soloists, Janet Price, Mary King, Kenneth Bowen and Christopher Keyte. It has been recorded by the BBC for future transmission.

Hilary Finch



The GLC Presents
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GLC

Theatre in London

Agamemnon/A Phoenix Too

Frequent

St George's

The New Classical Theatre Company, devoted to Greek and Roman plays and their modern progeny, launches itself in London at the St George's Theatre after several tours of Greece. This converted Tufnell Park church is big enough to slow the plays down but its Shakespearean stage, flanked by neo-Norman pillars, needs only an entrance grille to make it Aeschylus's Mycenae palace or the vault for Christopher Fry's comedy.

With their *Agamemnon*, also in a church, a few seasons ago the Company of Three showed how effective a small-cast production could be when backed by exceptional acting talent, imaginative music and a swift, vital style. This cast is capable, but it needs much more.

Pedants to be sure - though originally co-edited, they are probably not classicists or they would not mispronounce names like Artemis. The chorus, three

at most and shedding members in rotation for other roles, look effective in white make-up and robes; but the odes themselves, even in Raphael and McLeish's punchy simplified translation, need more colourful delivery and pace to hold interest. Clytemnestra (Julia Tarnock), prosaic in the exultant opening scenes, is much better in the depression and bitterness after killing Agamemnon.

First seen as a half-demented Pre-Raphaelite - Cassandra, Karen Hayes reappears after the interval as Fry's Dynamene, tolling perpetually in full evening dress against the coffin of the boring husband she has decided not to survive. The chance arrival of a handsome young soldier to provide not only a liquid lunch but a most agreeable reason for staying alive makes a charming, if overextended, comedy.

Fry's writing is arch at times but it is also witty, poetic and occasionally naughty. Miss Hayes, Adrian Hough as her wide-eyed admirer and Emma Jane Bleakley as her cheerfully amoral maid play with intelligence and a nice sense of the ridiculous.

Anthony Masters

New York City Ballet

Covent Garden

If you believe that ballet ought to tell stories and that the stage designs are as important as the other elements, stay away from the New York City Ballet. George Balanchine, their founder, guide and (even after his death) inspiring spirit, spent long enough with the Diaghilev Ballet to see through those heresies, and when he had his own company he put first things first. Music and dancing are what count. If you want to see brilliant choreography beautifully danced to good music, do not miss them.

To begin Monday night's opening programme, we had the first London showing of *Divertimento No. 15*. It is an indication of the sheer generosity of Balanchine's genius that, when nobody could remember the excellent ballet he first made to this music (given in the company's early seasons under the title *Caravale*), he made up another, even better, like a chef who improves on a favourite recipe.

Because the music is by Mozart (K287, played with spirit and style by the Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet Orchestra under Robert Irving), the mood is light, relaxed, elegant, with plenty of feeling to enliven the formal dances for five women soloists, three men and eight other women. It would be a sad soul who could not enjoy the Andante, with its contrasts of duet style for constantly changing combinations of dancers, or who failed to smile at the exuberant fun of the entry for Sean-Lavery and two women in the finale.

The solos to the Theme and Variations showed how young soloists who were just beginning to make their mark on the company's last visit, four years ago, such as Stephanie Salado, or who were still in the corps de ballet, but already noticeable, like Maya Calegari, have grown to match the meticulous skill of Merrill Ashley; and the group dancing in the Minuet demonstrated that there is more talent on the way.

Jerome Robbins's *Glass Pieces*, another London premiere, showed more of the new dancers as its soloists for the first section, "Rubric", and set

the cool, poised Calegari against Bart Cook's authoritative reserve in the second, "Facades". The ballet's title is an allusion to its composer, Philip Glass, the thinking man's pop musician, and I found the five performance of his scores infinitely more persuasive than any recording in bringing out the invention, flair and fun of the music.

What Robbins has done is to construct a hi-tech set of dances that adopt some of the mantras of minimalist choreography without really following its principles, thus side-stepping both its potential and its limitations (which would not suit these dancers anyway) in favour of his own immense skills as a choreographic entertainer.

The corps during the first two sections walk briskly or slowly about as a background to some brief exuberant solos or a slow duet in imitation of bas-relief. Then in the long finale, to part of "Akhmatova", they themselves provide the brisk dance interest. I was reminded of a host of sources, from Nijinsky's *Faune* to Balanchine's *Bugala*, neatly welded into the choreographic structure, and of coreog Rob-

bins's own past works: not only jazz ballets like *N.Y. Export* and *West Side Story*, but even the long-forgotten *Age of Anxiety*.

The programme ended with *Symphony in C*, Balanchine's celebration of the glories of classic dance to Bizet's music, this time with Hugo Fiorati conducting in fine style. The company always had good ballerinas to lead its four movements, and men of some skill and personality to partner them, but the strength right the way through the ranks is what impresses now, so that the final Allegro Vivace builds to a tremendously exhilarating climax as wave after wave of dancers enter to swell the dance crescendos.

All the same, young Melinda Roy and Judith Fugate deserve a special mention for their dancing in the third and fourth movements respectively while nothing less than an awed sigh will serve the strength and speed of the first two. Then in the long finale, to part of "Akhmatova", they themselves provide the brisk dance interest. I was reminded of a host of sources, from Nijinsky's *Faune* to Balanchine's *Bugala*, neatly welded into the choreographic structure, and of coreog Rob-

John Percival

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MARKET REPORT

Tax fears cancel gains

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began, Aug 15. Dealings end, Sept 2. Contango Day, Sept 5. Settlement Day, Sept 12.

"We do not want to let the jobbers know what we are doing."

The jobbers were also caught short by the earlier opening of Wall Street when American investors began selling some of the British stock they have been so regularly buying.

The worst affected was Glaxo where the price was severely cut by 65p to 800p in an attempt to curb American sales. Dealers suggested that jobbers had been caught short on their arbitrage positions, expecting American demand to continue taking US holdings over the 20 per cent level, and could not handle the volume of sales that materialized.

ICI, where US investors hold more than 5 per cent of the equity was similarly struck with a loss of 18p at 522p, by the close.

That reaction triggered nervousness in other leading blue chips where falls of up to 15p were registered.

Construction company Blue Circle resisted the trend by rising 8p to 453p ahead of tomorrow's interim figures. Despite reporting slightly better-than-expected figures yesterday, Taylor Woodrow still

Investors are picking up suggestions that Debenhams will make bumper profits this year. October figures should be £11m above last year's £20.9m without American property deals. A sharp rise in total dividend is also on the cards. Debenhams' price closed a penny easier at 129p yesterday, but has been down to 89p this year.

Disappointed and profit-takers moved in, clipping the price 5p to 545p.

Defence shares, came in for heavy selling with sector leader Racal falling 12p to 477p. Tarmac jumped to 428p as the company denied speculation that it was in the market to

acquire London Brick if it does not go ahead with its own bid for Heston Johnson.

Video company Electronic Rentals held its 69p peak after some hefty purchases of the shares on Monday. Conglomerate BET - the old British Electric Traction - has been a big buyer of the Electronic shares. Mr Nicholas Wills, managing director, confirmed. He, however, refused to disclose the quantity saying: "Obviously we have not reached 5 per cent otherwise we would have declared it."

Mr Wills also confirmed the company's intention to sell its 5 per cent stake in the North Sea Maurens oil field. Analysts' suggestions that BET was expecting around £45m "were nowhere near the real price," he said.

Mr Wills said that BET, despite the massive increase in funding for its own video hire operation, would not be bidding for Electronic Rentals. But he

said that BET was on the takeover list in Britain and the United States, adding that he expected the video hire business to begin contributing substantial profit next year.

A deterrent to any bid for Electronic is the 25.27 per cent stake held by Philips Electronics, the British subsidiary of the Dutch Philips Lamps Holding.

On the bid front, Prichard Services dipped 8p to 138p following the profit figures and rights issue to finance the purchase of, troubled cleaning group Spring Grove, down 2 1/2p. BPC attracted demand at 110p, up 4p, as a substantial holding in John Waddington is expected to be announced today.

Bellair dipped another 70p to 500p on the lack of any information from Wasson Establishment. Wasson lawyers say they are now working on an offer document for Harold Ingram, suspended at 300p, which will be posted shortly. Hopefully Wasson will disclose information about itself and its intentions in the document.

Wayne Lintott



The stock market was knocked back sharply yesterday. Traders had been nervously awaiting a downward reaction to the last 10 days of consistent strength and the slightest suggestion that the Government might introduce tax increases next year was enough to trigger widespread profit-taking.

Adding to the nervousness was speculation that London Investment Trust has liquidated the investment portfolio of recently-acquired British Industries and General Investment Trust. The offer went unconditional on Monday and the offer document did specify that the trust would be liquidated in "due course".

These two factors helped to push the FT 30 index down 16.4 by the close to 724, which effectively wiped out the gains of the last 10 days.

The market may have exaggerated the effect of the investment trust liquidation, according to the London Investment Trust chairman Mr John Arthur who added that the portfolio was worth only around £12m. He refused to confirm if the liquidation had taken place yesterday saying:

1982-83	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yld	P/E
100	100.00	100.00	Admiral	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
101	101.00	101.00	Admiral	101.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
102	102.00	102.00	Admiral	102.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
103	103.00	103.00	Admiral	103.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
104	104.00	104.00	Admiral	104.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
105	105.00	105.00	Admiral	105.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
106	106.00	106.00	Admiral	106.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
107	107.00	107.00	Admiral	107.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
108	108.00	108.00	Admiral	108.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
109	109.00	109.00	Admiral	109.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
110	110.00	110.00	Admiral	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1982-83	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yld	P/E
111	111.00	111.00	Admiral	111.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
112	112.00	112.00	Admiral	112.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
113	113.00	113.00	Admiral	113.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
114	114.00	114.00	Admiral	114.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
115	115.00	115.00	Admiral	115.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
116	116.00	116.00	Admiral	116.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
117	117.00	117.00	Admiral	117.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
118	118.00	118.00	Admiral	118.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
119	119.00	119.00	Admiral	119.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
120	120.00	120.00	Admiral	120.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1982-83	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yld	P/E
121	121.00	121.00	Admiral	121.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
122	122.00	122.00	Admiral	122.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
123	123.00	123.00	Admiral	123.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
124	124.00	124.00	Admiral	124.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
125	125.00	125.00	Admiral	125.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
126	126.00	126.00	Admiral	126.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
127	127.00	127.00	Admiral	127.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
128	128.00	128.00	Admiral	128.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
129	129.00	129.00	Admiral	129.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
130	130.00	130.00	Admiral	130.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1982-83	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yld	P/E
131	131.00	131.00	Admiral	131.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
132	132.00	132.00	Admiral	132.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
133	133.00	133.00	Admiral	133.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
134	134.00	134.00	Admiral	134.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
135	135.00	135.00	Admiral	135.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
136	136.00	136.00	Admiral	136.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
137	137.00	137.00	Admiral	137.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
138	138.00	138.00	Admiral	138.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
139	139.00	139.00	Admiral	139.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
140	140.00	140.00	Admiral	140.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1982-83	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yld	P/E
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142	142.00	142.00	Admiral	142.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
143	143.00	143.00	Admiral	143.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
144	144.00	144.00	Admiral	144.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
145	145.00	145.00	Admiral	145.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
146	146.00	146.00	Admiral	146.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
147	147.00	147.00	Admiral	147.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
148	148.00	148.00	Admiral	148.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
149	149.00	149.00	Admiral	149.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
150	150.00	150.00	Admiral	150.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1982-83	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yld	P/E
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152	152.00	152.00	Admiral	152.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
153	153.00	153.00	Admiral	153.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
154	154.00	154.00	Admiral	154.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
155	155.00	155.00	Admiral	155.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
156	156.00	156.00	Admiral	156.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
157	157.00	157.00	Admiral	157.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
158	158.00	158.00	Admiral	158.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
159	159.00	159.00	Admiral	159.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
160	160.00	160.00	Admiral	160.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1982-83	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yld	P/E
161	161.00	161.00	Admiral	161.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
162	162.00	162.00	Admiral	162.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
163	163.00	163.00	Admiral	163.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
164	164.00	164.00	Admiral	164.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
165	165.00	165.00	Admiral	165.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
166	166.00	166.00	Admiral	166.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
167	167.00	167.00	Admiral	167.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
168	168.00	168.00	Admiral	168.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
169	169.00	169.00	Admiral	169.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
170	170.00	170.00	Admiral	170.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1982-83	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yld	P/E
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172	172.00	172.00	Admiral	172.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
173	173.00	173.00	Admiral	173.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
174	174.00	174.00	Admiral	174.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
175	175.00	175.00	Admiral	175.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
176	176.00	176.00	Admiral	176.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
177	177.00	177.00	Admiral	177.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
178	178.00	178.00	Admiral	178.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
179	179.00	179.00	Admiral	179.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
180	180.00	180.00	Admiral	180.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1982-83	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yld	P/E
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182	182.00	182.00	Admiral	182.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
183	183.00	183.00	Admiral	183.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
184	184.00	184.00	Admiral	184.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
185	185.00	185.00	Admiral	185.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
186	186.00	186.00	Admiral	186.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
187	187.00	187.00	Admiral	187.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
188	188.00	188.00	Admiral	188.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
189	189.00	189.00	Admiral	189.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
190	190.00	190.00	Admiral	190.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1982-83	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yld	P/E
191	191.00	191.00	Admiral	191.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
192	192.00	192.00	Admiral	192.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
193	193.00	193.00	Admiral	193.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
194	194.00	194.00	Admiral	194.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
195	195.00	195.00	Admiral	195.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
196	196.00	196.00	Admiral	196.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
197	197.00	197.00	Admiral	197.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
198	198.00	198.00	Admiral	198.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
199	199.00	199.00	Admiral	199.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
200	200.00	200.00	Admiral	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1982-83	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yld
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Privatization - 2: Jeremy Warner on the dilemma facing hospitals

Companies who aim to clean up in the health service

When the share price of Bregreen, a small city-based office and street cleaning group, breached the £1m barrier for the first time, more than a few eyebrows were raised in surprise at the Stock Exchange nearby.

Bregreen has become one of the most highly rated shares in the market selling at a staggering 30 times likely 1983 earnings - the sort of valuation normally attached only to companies at the forefront of technology. Mrs Mop had joined the micro-chip.

The secret ingredient is privatization. The National Health Service will this year spend nearly £3bn of its £15.5bn budget on ancillary services such as catering, laundry, cleaning, porters and maintenance.

If only a fifth of that sum were eventually to be contracted out to the private sector, it would roughly double the turnover of what is still a fairly small industry.

Add to this the cleaning work that local authorities are expected to put out to the private sector for schools, colleges, streets and refuse collection, and it is not difficult to see why the services industry is anticipating a bonanza over the next five years.

The popularity of the sector on the stock market was graphically illustrated yesterday when, after a shoal of rumours about the future of the Spring Grove group, best known for industrial towel supply, Pritchard Services launched an agreed share for share takeover bid worth £16.8m.

Spring Grove was the weak man of the industrial service bid after an ill-conceived

Recommendation to put work out to tender may be quietly ignored

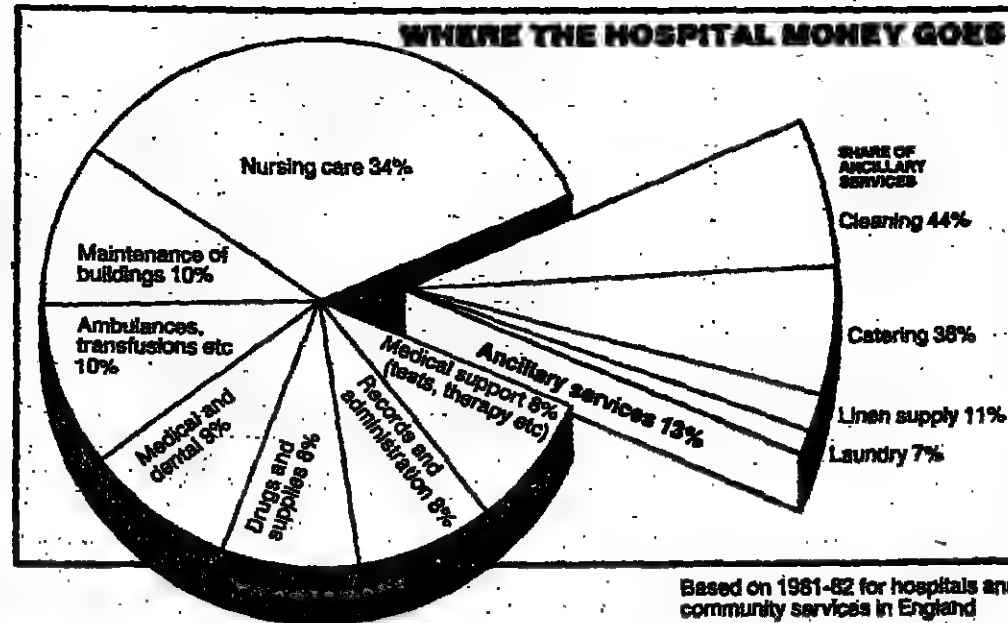
acquisition went wrong. But in a popular sector, where other mergers have been smothered by the Monopolies Commission, Pritchard was able to back up its takeover with a rights issue to its own shareholders calling for £23.4m in new capital for expansion of the combined group and justified its confidence with results for the half-year to July 3 showing a 20 per cent rise in pretax profits from £4m to £4.8m.

The share prices of anything to do with cleaning or laundry have, as a consequence, been riding the crest of a wave over the past 12 months. The sector as a whole has outperformed the rest of the market by more than 15 per cent. Within it, Bregreen, which has already managed to win around a half of the local authority refuse collection and street cleaning contracts, has been outstanding, outperforming the market by 57 per cent.

This has been followed by Initial, whose share price has done 31 per cent better than the market. Pritchard Services Group, whose image has been considerably damaged over the last month by the adverse publicity surrounding its London Borough of Wandsworth street cleaning and gardening contract, has still managed to stay 16 per cent ahead of the market.

The Department of Health and Social Security plans to issue a circular next month telling health authorities how to obtain tenders from the private sector and to compare them with in-house tenders.

The circular was to have gone out before the Parliamentary recess but was delayed. It will be the culmination of a process which began last February when Mr Norman Fowler, the then Social Services Secretary, said



Based on 1981-82 for hospitals and community services in England

POSSIBLE CONTENDERS FOR CONTRACTS

Company	Market valuation
Advance Services	£24m
Bregreen	£42m
Initial	£263m
Johnson Group	£25m
Pritchard	£111m
Stevenson	£75m
Spring Grove	£16m
Sunlight Services	£20m
Total	£580m

*Before £23m Pritchard rights issue and agreed takeover of Spring Grove.

their contracts out to tender. Within Europe, this is a position unique to Britain. In every other EEC country, public authorities are obliged by law to put contracts out to tender.

If a significant number of contracts from each regional health authority do not go out to tender this autumn, the Government might be tempted to follow the legislative path. In April last year, the chairman of all the 14 regional health authorities were either changed or reappointed but the type of Thatcher placemen the cynical mind might expect to find in these positions as a consequence, simply did not appear.

Nor will the political colour of a particular area be a crucial determinant in the decision to contract out local authority or school and college cleaning work - have much of an effect on the reluctance or otherwise of health districts to dip into the privatization issue. Politicians only fill four out of sixteen seats on each district health authority board.

There have already been several examples of contracting out in the health service since last February's statement in the Commons. But the big contracts which have gone to the private sector since then have been for new hospitals so the problem of replacing the in-house workforce did not occur.

The North Warwickshire District Health Authority has awarded a contract to supply

The Wandsworth contracts have been nothing but trouble

laundry services to five public hospitals to Initial, the towels and workwear group. A contract to provide cleaning services for the Beckenham maternity hospital was awarded to a Danish-owned company called ISS Hospital Services but the existing in-house workforce involved only 17 people here.

It would be rash for the private sector to believe that

any more than 35 hospitals out of 1,860 in England and Wales alone, will go out to competitive tender this autumn. These will be regarded as test cases on which the private sector's claims will stand or fall.

Less than half of the health service contracts put out to tender will result in work for the private sector if the experience of tendering for local authority street cleaning or refuse collection work is anything to go by.

The competitive tender system is used by many local authorities as a big stick to beat down in-house costs and there is every reason to suppose the health service will use it in the same way.

Private sector companies achieve their lower costs by employing fewer people and by employing this generally ununionized labour more efficiently by changing the old working practices. According to Bregreen's Mr David Evans, considerable savings are also achieved by using modern equipment.

He says: "You can clean 10,000 sq ft an hour with a scrubber-dryer. At best you get 1,000 ft an hour from a mop and bucket. The health service will never spend money on scrubber-dryers because when it comes to equipment purchases, its priorities lie elsewhere."

The private sector achieves, according to the unions, lower costs by cutting corners. There is, almost by definition, a wealth of anecdotal evidence to back up either view point but the case that has grabbed the headlines of late adds some credibility to the union standpoint. The street cleaning and gardening contracts in Wandsworth have been nothing but trouble for Pritchard.

It privately admits to wishing that it had never tendered for them. The damage in public relations has been enormous. Since the contracts were awarded in February last year, several financial penalties have been awarded against Pritchard by public inspectors and the whole messy business has culminated in a long and acrimonious labour dispute.

Pritchard, which through its Crothall offshoot carries out work for about 36 public hospitals in Britain, four out of five where ancillary services are already contracted out, is in a prime position for winning further health service work and can realistically expect to get up to a half of all that is on offer.

It has considerable international experience in hospital management enabling it to offer a complete package of laundry, catering and domestic services.

Other companies that hope to gain are Initial, Hawley Group through its Medicom offshoot, Stenley, Spring Grove, John-

son Group, Sunlight Services Group, whose Pall Mall Cleaning subsidiary has won a £1m two-year contract to clean 104 schools in Cambridgeshire, as well as hotel and catering companies like Grand Metropolitan.

Most have in the last six months set up special medical services subsidiaries if they did not have them already.

But if the experience of Pritchard in Wandsworth is anything to go by, contracting out of National Health Service work could be a messy business in which the rewards in the early years are small.

Mr Andrew Melrose, an investment analyst with the stock broking firm Grieson Grant, says, "The whole sector has become frothy. Share prices at these levels are anticipating substantial benefits from privatization. But I think it will be a much longer and more acrimonious process than people in the City generally appreciate."

About 50 per cent of the money spent by the health service on domestic catering and laundry services, goes on cleaning, 42 per cent of catering, and 8 per cent on laundry.

It will be a brave district administrator who becomes the first to award the cleaning or porterage contract for an existing big city hospital to anything other than the in-house tender.

And it requires a great deal of faith in the government's will to privatize to believe that the private sector will indeed be bidding on £500m of extra work from the health service in a few years.

Tomorrow: hard lessons of all.

Financial notebook

Dollar build-up may lead to yet another burst bubble

Financial bubbles have long been a feature of investment markets in Britain and elsewhere. Periodically, market participants persuade themselves that a particular asset or investment activity presents unlimited prospects for financial gain, only to be faced with a savage reaction when it becomes apparent that market values have reached unsustainable levels.

The 1973-1975 secondary banking crisis in Britain (based on inflated property values), the gold boom of 1979-1980, the American experience with property investment trusts in the 1970s, and the more recent boom-bust syndrome in international lending are examples of excessive market enthusiasm giving rise to investment bubbles that eventually burst.

The behaviour of currency markets over the past two years suggests that another bubble is building up in the form of an overvalued American dollar. Since the end of 1980 the dollar has appreciated by one third against the average of other leading currencies, by 50 per cent against the Deutschmark and by more than 60 per cent against sterling.

The main explanation for this dramatic rise in the dollar's external value is the level of dollar interest rates which, after adjusting for inflation, have offered considerably higher "real" rates of return than those available on non-dollar denominated assets.

Furthermore, since the prime cause of high American interest rates is the soaring

budget deficit the market consensus is that tight credit conditions will continue to support a strong dollar for as long as the Administration and Congress remain deadlocked over budgetary policy.

According to this view the positive interest rate factor will outweigh any further deterioration in the American trade position resulting from the dollar's appreciation.

There are, however, two objections to this assessment of the dollar's prospects. First as is now becoming apparent, the outlook for American interest rates is much less certain than many supposed. After adjusting for inflation American long-term bond yields are higher than they were a year ago and it would be surprising indeed if these penal borrowing costs did not quickly choke off private sector credit demands, thereby slowing the American recovery when European economies are showing signs of revival.

However, it seems probable that the serious damage now being inflicted visibly on American industry by the Administration's absorption of private savings will generate internal political pressures for corrective action after next year's presidential election, if not before.

The second reason for questioning the dollar's strong status is the scale of the present balance of payments adjustment. While the outlook for American interest rates is far from clear, the prospect of a continuing and unprecedented erosion of the country's international trade position is certain.

Careful estimates indicate that the dollar's appreciation over the past two and a half years will eventually result in a worsening of the annual trade balance to the extent of \$40bn to \$50bn (£26.4bn to £33.1bn) implying chronic current account deficits of this order and, indeed, more.

This means that, if the dollar's value is to be sustained, America will have to attract even larger net capital inflows to offset the widening shortfall on current account.

More likely is an abrupt reversal of the dollar's recent performance as the dominant concern of investors shifts from hopes of high interest rates to trade developments and the external financing "gap".

Previous experience suggests that the market adjustment, when it comes, will be precipitous rather than gradual, posing particular dangers for an Administration that has forewarned large-scale official intervention as an instrument of stabilisation.

In particular, American inflation could be boosted by several percentage points if the dollar were permitted to find its own level in a badly shaken foreign exchange market.

A dollar crisis, coming after a prolonged period of excessive dollar strength, would also raise fundamental questions about the management of exchange rates.

Dr Richard Dale

The author is an economist and barrister and co-author of *Managing Global Debt*, to be published by the Brookings Institution next month.

Standard Chartered BANK PLC

Interim Statement

The Standard Chartered Bank Group profit before taxation for the half-year to 30th June, 1983, is £116.4 million

	Half-year ended 30th June 1983	Half-year ended 31st December 1982	Half-year ended 30th June 1982
Profit before provision for bad and doubtful debts	£m 176.5	£m 195.6	£m 131.6
Provision for bad and doubtful debts	60.1	54.5	30.7
Profit before taxation	116.4	141.1	100.9

The pre-tax profit for the half-year to 30th June, 1983, was 15% up on the comparable period of 1982 despite the need to make large provisions for bad and doubtful debts, particularly in the United Kingdom and Hong Kong. Group profit experience this year has been mixed, with strong performances in South Africa, California and in the U.K. International and Treasury Divisions, a turnaround into profit in Chartered Trust and rather flat or lower results in the East. After financing costs, the MAIBL acquisition made a useful positive contribution.

An interim dividend of 9.5 pence per share (1982 - 9.2 pence) has been declared for payment on 7th October, 1983, to shareholders registered on 16th September, 1983. As indicated at the time of the Rights issue in April 1983, the Directors expect, in the absence of unforeseen circumstances, to recommend dividends in respect of the year ended 31st December, 1983, amounting to at least 27 pence per share on the share capital as increased by the Rights issue.

Group Results

(unaudited)

	Six months ended 30th June 1983	Six months ended 31st December 1982	Six months ended 30th June 1982
Trading profit of the Bank and its subsidiaries (Note 1)	£m 116.2	£m 139.9	£m 104.4
Share of profits of associated companies	18.7	19.8	14.8
Interest on subordinated loan capital	134.9	159.7	119.2
Profit before taxation	185	186	183
Taxation:			
The Bank and its subsidiaries (Note 2)	116.4	141.1	100.9
Associated Companies	40.0	45.1	38.2
Profit after taxation	8.0	8.0	6.5
Minority interests	68.4	88.0	56.2
Profit attributable to members of the Bank	13.9	19.9	10.3
Dividend	54.5	68.1	45.9
Profit retained	54.5	66.9	45.9
Earnings per share (Note 3)	14.8	23.1	11.9
Dividend per share	39.7	43.8	34.0
	39.1p	52.6p	35.4p
	9.5p	17.8p	9.2p
	(Interim)	(Final)	(Interim)

Notes to the Group Results:

- The charge to the profit of the Bank and its subsidiaries for bad and doubtful debts is as follows:

	Six months ended 30th June 1983	Six months ended 31st December 1982	Six months ended 30th June 1982
Specific	£m 53.1	£m 43.0	£m 29.3
General	7.0	11.5	1.4
	60.1	54.5	30.7
- The charge for taxation which is based on the estimated effective rate for the year assumes a U.K. Corporation Tax rate of 52% (1982 - 52%).
- Earnings per share are based upon profit before extraordinary items and the weighted average number of shares in issue taking into account the Rights issue of new shares in April.

Head Office: 10 Clements Lane, London EC4A 3AB

Direct banking worldwide



The Independent Investment Company plc

"The year to 30 June 1983 has proved to be outstanding. Net Asset Value per Share increased by 147 per cent. Since Independent was launched in December 1980, shareholders' funds have grown by 247 per cent. from a starting capital of £30m to just over £100m.

On reaching the age of 70, I will be retiring this year and Mr John Menzies will succeed me as Chairman."

Mr J. M. Menzies (right) with Mr J. V. Sheffield

This record performance has made Independent the best performing investment trust over the year to 30 June 1983.

To: The Secretariat Department, Ivory & Sims plc, One Charlotte Square, Edinburgh EH2 4DZ. Please send me a copy of the 1983 Annual Report for The Independent Investment Company plc.

Name _____ Address _____

APPOINTMENTS

Prestige names new finance director

Prestige Group: Mr Brian Wainwright has been made finance director.

TSB Scotland: Mr J. G. Craigie has become head of foreign services.

EDFIS British Overseas Trade Group for Inland: Mr Clinton Silver will be chairman for three years until July, 1986. He replaces Mr J. Harrison, chairman since January, 1979.

Owston Holdings: Mr David Grant has been appointed secretary to the group and to V&T Watkins. Mr Ron Gooddyer becomes chairman of H. Fairweather (City), where he has been managing director. Mr Charles Lancel, a director, becomes managing director. Mr Gordon Parker becomes executive director of Swanley Bar Plant, with Mrs Brenda Barker as company secretary. Mr Eric Wallis is appointed development manager and secretary of Belfract, the group's property and land development company.

or and deputy managing director respectively for A. F. Bulgin also join the board of Broxley.

Sheffield Press UK Division of Textron Inc: Mr Michael

Mr John Devaney (above) has been appointed managing director of Perkins Engines.

Johnstone has become managing director.

J. L. Catering: Mr D. C. Johnson, special projects director of Lyons Bakery, will be managing director of J. L. Catering next week tomorrow. Car Care Plan (Securities Division): Mr Alan Clark has been appointed to the new position of commercial vehicle sales director.

Country Properties

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Attached House
 included village:
 Marlborough..
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 £75,000,
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